



CONTINUATION — Chapter 7, Sasquatch: The Apes Among Us, by John Green

seen the footprints of Batutut and other villagers had also seen them from time to time . . .

When I made further inquiries in the kampong I found that Batutut was quite well known and other stories confirmed what Bahat had told me. I secured photographs of the feet of sun-bears and indeed they were too small and differently shaped to be responsible for the tracks I had seen. Later I saw plaster casts of even larger footprints from Malaya that had definitely been made by the same animal, there known as orangpendek, or 'short fellow'. Again, natives spoke of a small creature with long hair, who walks upright like a man. Drawings and even photographs of similar footprints found in Sumatra are attributed to the Sedapa or Umang, a small, shy, long-haired, bipedal being living deep in the forest.

Abominable Snowmen also mentions the Sedapa and the Orang Pendek, as names for the Indonesian creature. Of course the Dwendi, the Agogwe, the Shiru and the Sedapa are too small to be the same as the sasquatch, but the little fellows could be closely related to each other, and something similar could account for the few reports of small creatures in North America. The Sisimite, Mapinguary and Muhalu could be the same thing as the sasquatch, and giant forms are also reported from several places in Eurasia.

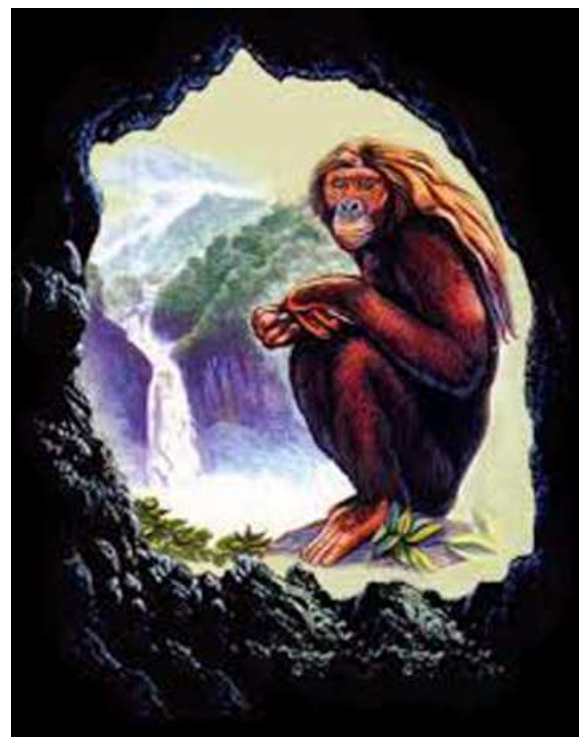
There are some Australian reports, but so far I have seen none of sufficient substance to make a case for such creatures having reached the island continent. There are even a few newspaper stories of a seven-foot apelike "Moehau monster" in New Zealand but how a giant ape could get there seems to me to be beyond explanation.

From Malaya two Americans produced color photos of 18-inch footprints they claimed to have found near the Endau River. One of them, Harold Stephens, wrote an article for the August, 1971, issue of *Argosy* magazine which also covered a number of earlier reports from that area of an upright ape, some of which I also have from earlier sources. Two giant "Monkey Men" were reported near the Burma-Laos border close to the Mekong River in June, 1969, according to a Reuters report. They were 10 feet tall and covered with "khaki-colored hair". From the opposite side of Burma, Ivan Sanderson received a letter from a veterinary surgeon in 1969, telling of a villager killing a sasquatch (that is the name used in the letter) and keeping some of its teeth. The letter writer referred to other evidence and stated flatly, "We have the sasquatch in the Chin hills." *Abominable Snowmen* also mentions giants known as Kung-Lu and Tok in Burma.

In Western Burma we are just about back to the Himalayas. I have



Orangpendek



Sedapa



Moehau monster

The Kung-Lu is a True Giant of Burma, near the Thai border. American photographer Hassoldt Davis heard of it on the Armand Davis expedition in the 1930s. He said it was 20 feet tall, lived on the highest mountains, and looked like a miniature King Kong.

said that the abominable snowman, or yeti, is not the sasquatch, but Ivan Sanderson, and also Tom Slick, who sponsored expeditions there, were of the opinion that there was more than one type of creature in the Himalayas, and one kind was a giant. A remarkable account of such a creature is contained in a book, *The Long Walk*, written by Slavomir Rawicz, who claims to have been one of a group that escaped from Siberia by walking south to India in the early 1940's. He tells of seeing two animals far away on a snowfield in the Himalayas and heading towards them in hopes that they could be caught for food. They reached a position from which the animals were again in view, about 100 yards away:

Two points struck me immediately. They were enormous and they walked on their hind legs. The picture is clear in my mind, fixed there indelibly by a solid two hours of observation. We just could not believe what we saw at first, so we stayed to watch. Somebody talked about dropping down to their level to get a close-up view.

Zaro said, "They look strong enough to eat us." We stayed where we were. We weren't too sure of unknown creatures which refused to run away at the approach of men.

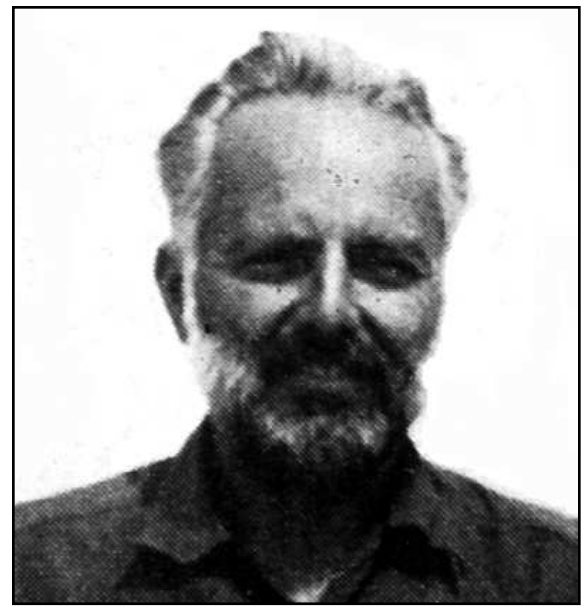
I set myself to estimating their height on the basis of my military training for artillery observation. They could not have been much less than eight feet tall. One was a few inches taller than the other, in the relation of the average man to the average woman. They were shuffling quietly round on a flattish shelf which formed part of the obvious route for us to continue our descent. We thought that if we waited long enough they would go away and leave the way clear for us. It was obvious they had seen us, and it was equally apparent that they had no fear of us.

The American said that eventually he was sure we should see them drop on all fours like bears. But they never did.

Their faces I could not see in detail, but the heads were squarish and the ears must lie close to the skull because there was no projection from the silhouette against the snow. The shoulders sloped sharply down to a powerful chest. The arms were long and the wrists reached to the level of the knees. Seen in profile the back of the head was a straight line from the crown into the shoulders — "like a damned Prussian", as Paluchowicz put it.

We decided unanimously that we were examining a type of creature of which we had no previous experience in the wild, in zoos or in literature . . .

They appeared to be covered by two distinct kinds of hair

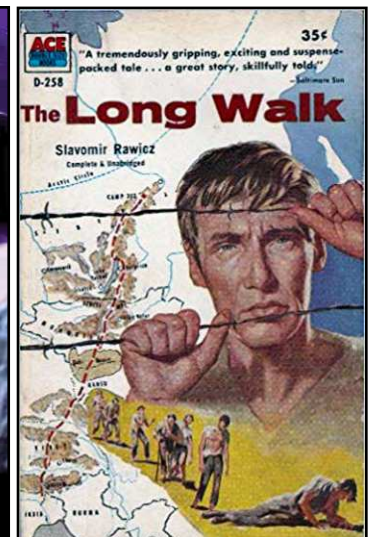


Tom Slick (1916–1962)



Slavomir Rawicz (1915–2004)

Artwork created especially for me (2005) by Gary Krejci showing Rawicz observing the strange hominoids in the Himalayas, and the cover of the original Rawicz book. In 2009, the entire story was challenged by Wintold Glinski who stated that he made the trek and his story was stolen by Rawicz. However, the part about the hominoids (yetis) was not in Glinski's story. Subsequent research states that Glinski could not possibly have made the incredible walk. Other evidence provides reasonable proof that Rawicz did make the trek, but there is no way it can be proven that he and the others saw the hominoids Rawicz claims in his book.



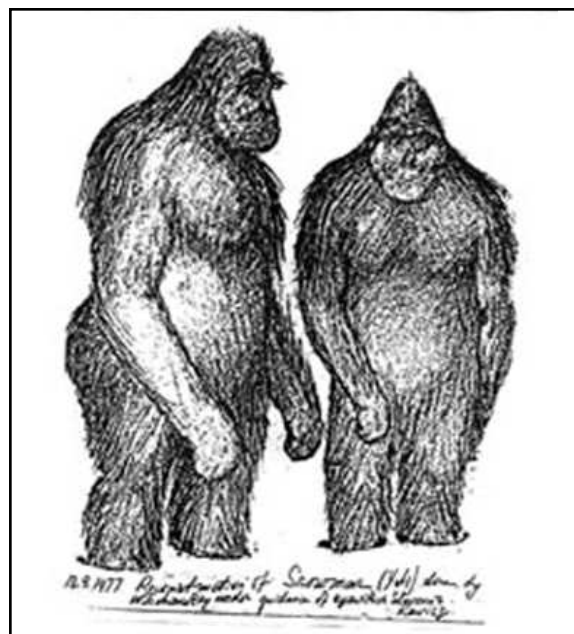
— the reddish hair which gave them their characteristic colour forming a tight, close fur against the body, mingling with which were long, loose, straight hairs, hanging downwards, which had a slight greyish tinge as the light caught them.

In the U.S.S.R. there is a situation comparable to that in North America, with far more information available than from the Himalayas. It has not been widely publicized in English however, except in Odette Tchernine's books. I have corresponded for years with Professor B. F. Porshnev, who is now dead, and with Igor Bourtsev and Dmitri Bayanov of the Hominid Problem Seminar at Moscow. There is an impression abroad in North America that the Russian government is involved in sending out expeditions to look for their versions of the snowman or sasquatch, but that is not the case. The Russians seem to have much the same difficulties with their scientific establishment that we have in North America, and progress there has depended entirely on the efforts of interested individuals, just as it has here. Professor Porshnev did have the advantage of high standing in the academic community which enabled him to get papers published in scientific journals. One such paper appeared after his death in the December, 1974 edition of *Current Anthropology*, starting the only discussion I am aware of in a major anthropological publication.

In a much longer paper published in *Soviet Ethnography* in 1969, Professor Porshnev gave many details of the research done in Russia and the conclusions arrived at. I have had that paper translated, but find the translation still rather difficult to follow. Because it contains so much interesting information that is not otherwise available in English, I will risk some distortions in meaning by attempting a paraphrase of the sections of the paper dealing with the history of the investigation in Russia and the description of the creatures studied.

There is an immediate problem in that none of the names Professor Porshnev used for the creatures is really acceptable to me, since they all carry connotations of primitive man, which I feel prejudices the situation. However it would be an even greater distortion for me to use the word sasquatch for creatures in Russia that may be something entirely different. One name that Professor Porshnev favored was *Homo troglodytes*. That was the name Karl Linnaeus used more than two centuries ago in his *Systema Naturae* for creatures of which he had read and heard that resembled man physically but were hairy and lacked man's power of speech. "Troglodyte" is a word generally taken to mean "cave man", but it can also be applied to the anthropoid apes. Where a name is needed I will use that one.

Professor Porshnev states that Linnaeus expressed astonishment that



Sketch made in 1942 by Slavomir Rawicz of the hominoids he saw.

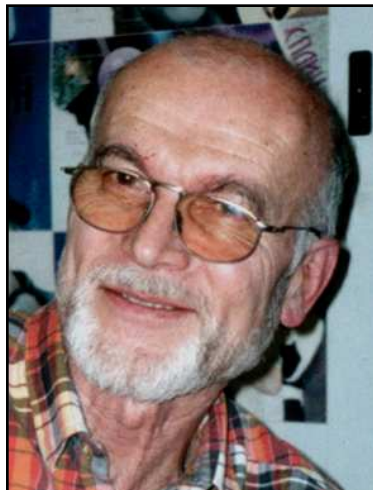


Dr. Boris Porshnev (1905–1972)

137



Dmitri Bayanov (1932–)



Igor Burtsev (1941–)



Karl Linnaeus (1707–1778)

Odette Tchernine (c.?1897 –) was a British author, novelist and journalist, notable for writing several books on the Abominable Snowman or Yeti such as *In Pursuit of the Abominable Snowman*, Taplinger Publishing, 1971. Before *In Pursuit*, she published *The Snowman and Company*. Initially a socialite and novelist, she earned a reputation from the 1950s through the 1970s "as one of Britain's most formidable monster hunters." (Wikipedia)

everyone could get so excited about monkeys yet natural scientists were able to ignore the troglodytes as if they didn't exist. His paper continues:

During the latter part of the 19th century, Linnaeus' Troglodyte again came to light, but not through scientific enquiry. N. M. Przhevalsky, on trips into Central Asia, received information about a "man beast" but did not investigate it further. Nothing was done in that area until the 1920's, when T. Jamsarano, a Mongolian scientist, began compiling information about the manlike creatures and over a 10-year period mapped their distribution in Mongolia. His work was not influenced by any knowledge of Linnaeus' belief in such creatures.

Just as Jamsarano had not known of Linnaeus' work, zoologist V. A. Khakhlov did not know of Jamsarano's. He worked between 1907 and 1914, gathering information on the manlike creatures in the Tien Shan region. The people of Khazakstan called them "Kshee-guiek". Writing to the Russian Academy of Science on June 1, 1914, he named this creature *Primihomo Asiaticus*. It should be stressed that Jamsarano and Khakhlov arrived at their conclusions independently, which establishes that the natives of their respective regions both believed in the existence of similar creatures. Furthermore these independent descriptions agreed as to the habitat of the creatures, what they looked like and how they behaved. That can hardly be considered just a case of similar folklore in two different areas of Central Asia, since the descriptions correspond with fossils which were discovered later, which neither the uneducated people of those regions nor Jamsarano and Khakhlov knew anything about. Later the Mongolian professor G. P. Dementiev and others carried out extensive field research and obtained more precise anatomical, morphological and biological data.

Evidence gathered by Khakhlov and also by some travellers throughout Central Asia inspired further academic research by P. P. Sushkin, who concluded that the transformation from ape to man took place in the high mountains of Central Asia, passing through the intermediate form of an upright-walking animal. The fact that Sushkin restricted his research to information from a limited region of Central Asia caused him to arrive at this mistaken theory. Nonetheless, Linnaeus, Jamsarano, Khakhlov and Sushkin all related the problem to man more than ape. On the other hand, Western European scientists, while pursuing research in Nepal and the

Comments: Please note that I have underlined some text that I wish to discuss. In the first instance on page one we have an allegation that a sasquatch was killed and its teeth taken and saved. As Ivan Sanderson was involved, I have my doubts as to the credibility of the story.

In the second instance, it is stated that sasquatch-related fossils were found. I doubt very much that this is true. I don't know of any such fossils and I am certain Dr. Grover Krantz would have looked into this.

Of courses, there would have been the usual excuses—flood, fire, earthquake, theft, sent for examination and not returned, etc.

To be continued in the next B&P.



Nikolay Mikhaylovich Przhevalsky (1839–1888)



Tseveen Jamsarano (1880–1942)



Petr Petrovich Sushkin
(1868–1928)



V. A. Khakhlov (1890–1983)