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## Other Unrecognized Hominids

The sasquatch is not alone in the world of unclassified hominids. Other countries claim the existence of similar creatures that are equally intriguing and share many of the same characteristics. The most prevalent are the almasti, or Russian snowman; the yeren of China; the yeti or abominable snowman of the Himalayas region; and the yowie of Australia. Each of these creatures is discussed in turn.

### The Russian Snowman

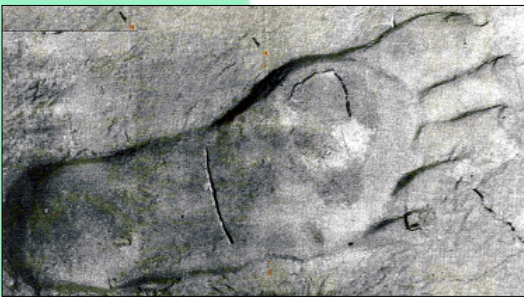
For centuries, there have been sightings and stories of unusual hominid creatures in Russia. Such creatures are depicted in early Russian drawings, paintings, sculptures, and engravings. Although the creatures share many of the same features as the North American sasquatch, they are not considered the same species. Dr. Grover Krantz sums up his appraisal as follows:



*Artistic rendering of the Russian snowman.*

Most of the Caucasus descriptions could be fitted into a sasquatch mold, but only with considerable difficulty. The size, and especially the massiveness, of the sasquatch body is not evident here, though it could be a geographical variant in this regard. More problematical is the notable sexual dimorphism of the sasquatch and its distinctively different (and much larger) footprints. The non-

opposed thumb is like the sasquatch, but the elongated fingers are not. Its behavior is also somewhat different, especially in its interactions with humans and their dogs.



To my knowledge there are no confirmed photographs of a Russian snowman; it is therefore apparent Dr. Krantz used verbal descriptions of the creature for information regarding the thumb and fingers. The photographs shown here are those of alleged Russian snowman footprints. The first print, which measured about 15.5 inches (39.4 cm) in length, was found in Tien Shan in 1963. (One thing that strikes me about this print is the position and comparative insignificance of the little toe. Is it possible this toe might fail to make a significant impression in some prints, giving rise to what might be conceived to be a four-toed print? Four-toed prints have been found in both Russia and North America.) The next print, one in a series about 10 inches (25.4 cm) long, was found in March 1978 in the Dolina Narzanov Valley, North Caucasus.

Research in Russia is carried out mainly by the Relict Hominoid Research Seminar, organized at the Darwin Museum in Moscow. The chairman, Dmitri Bayanov, after extensive fieldwork, authored a book, *In the Footsteps of the Russian Snowman*, published in 1996 (Crypto-Logos Publishers). This book provides very convincing evidence of the creature's existence, giving us remarkable eyewitness accounts. The major and most fascinating accounts provided are those concerning what I call the "Karapetian Hominid" and the story of Zana. Details on each of these creatures follow.



*Dmitri Bayanov in the hills of Kabarda, North Caucasus, in the 1970s.*

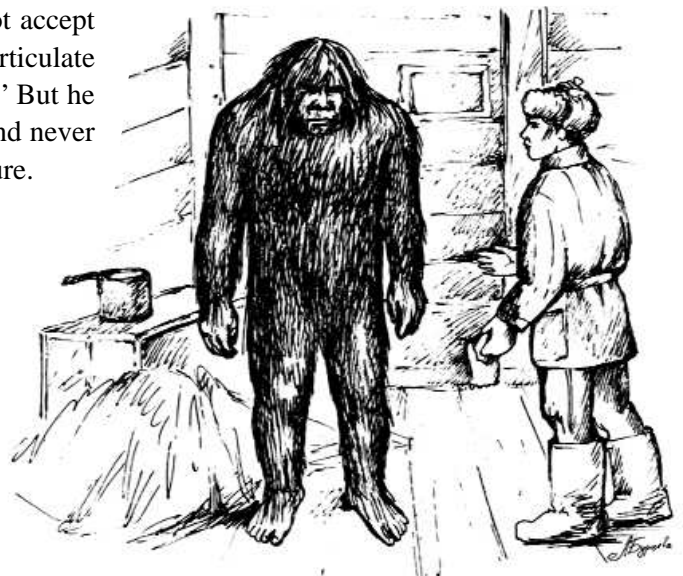
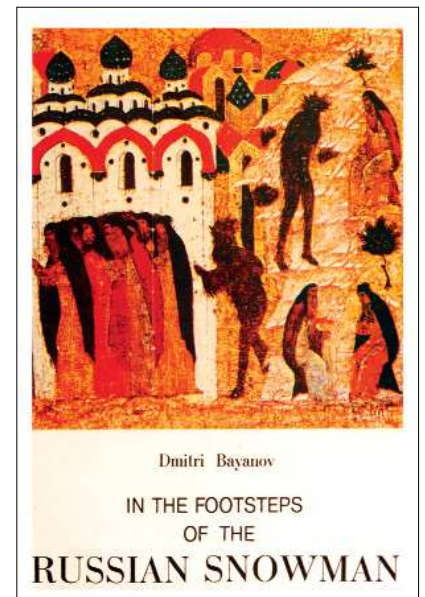
### THE KARAPETIAN HOMINID



*Lt. Col. V.S. Karapetian, MD.*

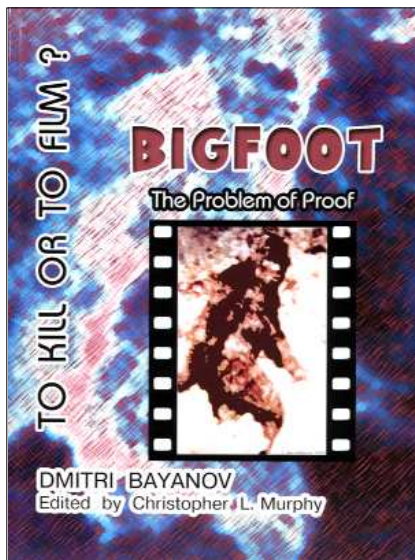
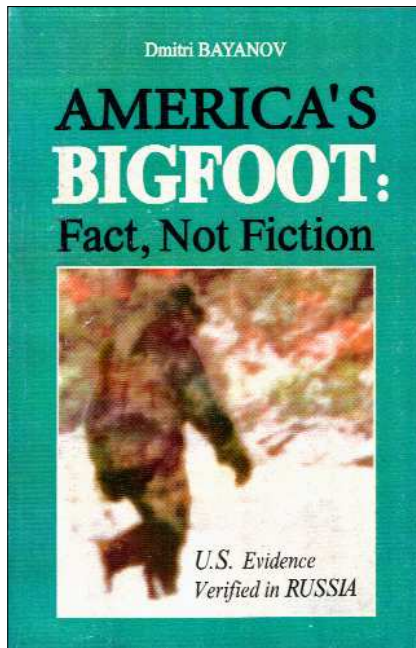
We are told that in December 1941 a Russian army unit in the Caucasus observed a strange hairy man near their post. Fearing that he might be with the enemy, soldiers quickly captured him. Because of the man's unusual appearance, Lt. Col. V.S. Karapetian, a medical doctor in the Army Medical Corps, was asked to examine him. The following is Dr. Karapetian's statement, made to a magazine correspondent, on the incident:

The man I saw is quite clear in my memory as if standing in front of me now. I was inspecting him on the request of local authorities. It was necessary to establish whether the strange man was an enemy saboteur in disguise. But it was a totally wild creature, almost fully covered with dark brown hair resembling a bear's fur, without a mustache or beard, with just slight hairiness on the face. The man was standing very upright, his arms hanging down. He was higher than medium, about 180 centimeters (71 inches). He was standing like an athlete, his powerful chest put forward. His eyes had an empty, purely animal expression. He did not accept any food or drink. He said nothing and made only inarticulate sounds. I extended my hand to him and even said 'hello.' But he did not respond. After inspection I returned to my unit and never received any further information about the strange creature.



*Dr. Karapetian extends his hand to the unusual hairy man. (Drawing by Lydia Bourtseva.)*

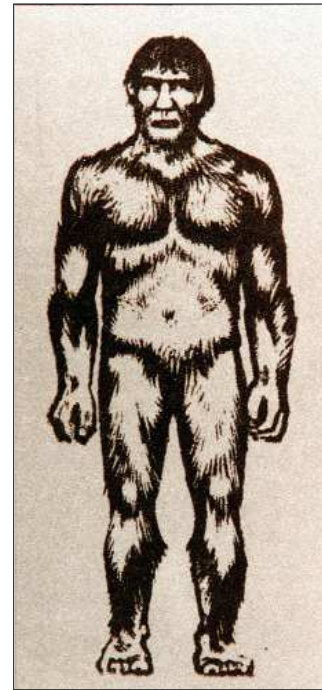




Both Dmitri Bayanov and Igor Bourtsev have done extensive research on North America's bigfoot. The books shown here were authored by Dmitri. The first book discusses the overwhelming evidence supporting the existence of the creature. The second book addresses the troublesome question of our right to kill one of the creatures to prove its existence to the scientific community.

In providing further details at a later date, Karapetian revealed that the man was cold-resistant and preferred cold conditions to normal room temperature. He was shown to Karapetian in a cold shed and, when the doctor asked why he was kept in such cold conditions, soldiers stated that he had perspired excessively in the building where he was first taken. Elaborating on the man's face, Karapetian stated (repeated) that the subject had a very nonhuman, animal-like expression. Moreover, Karapetian revealed that the man had lice of a much larger size and of a different kind than those found on humans. The doctor informed the authorities that the entity was not a man in disguise, but a "very, very wild" subject with real hair.

It has been generally accepted that the drawing shown here was created by Karapetian. This information is not correct. It is apparently an artist's conception that was created for the story at some point in time and has been incorrectly identified as a drawing made by Karapetian.



Artist's conception of the Karapetian Hominid.

## ZANA

The story of Zana, a Russian ape-woman, is truly remarkable. Zana died in the 1880s or 1890s, so some people in the area where she lived actually remembered her when researchers questioned them in 1962. It is believed hunters captured her in the wild, whereupon she was sold. She changed hands several times and eventually became the property of a nobleman. The following description of Zana is quoted from Dmitri Bayanov's book, *In the Footsteps of the Russian Snowman*:

Her skin was black, or dark grey, and her whole body covered with reddish-black hair. The hair on her head was tousled and thick, hanging mane-like down her back.

From remembered descriptions given to Mashkovtsev and Porshnev, her face was terrifying; broad, with high cheekbones, flat nose, turned out nostrils, muzzle-like jaws, wide mouth with large teeth, low forehead, and eyes of a reddish tinge. But the most frightening feature was her expression, which was purely animal, not human. Sometimes, she would give a spontaneous laugh, baring those big white teeth of hers. The latter were so strong that she easily cracked the hardest walnuts.

Zana was trained to perform simple domestic chores and became pregnant several times by various men. Remarkably, she gave birth to normal human babies, four of whom survived to

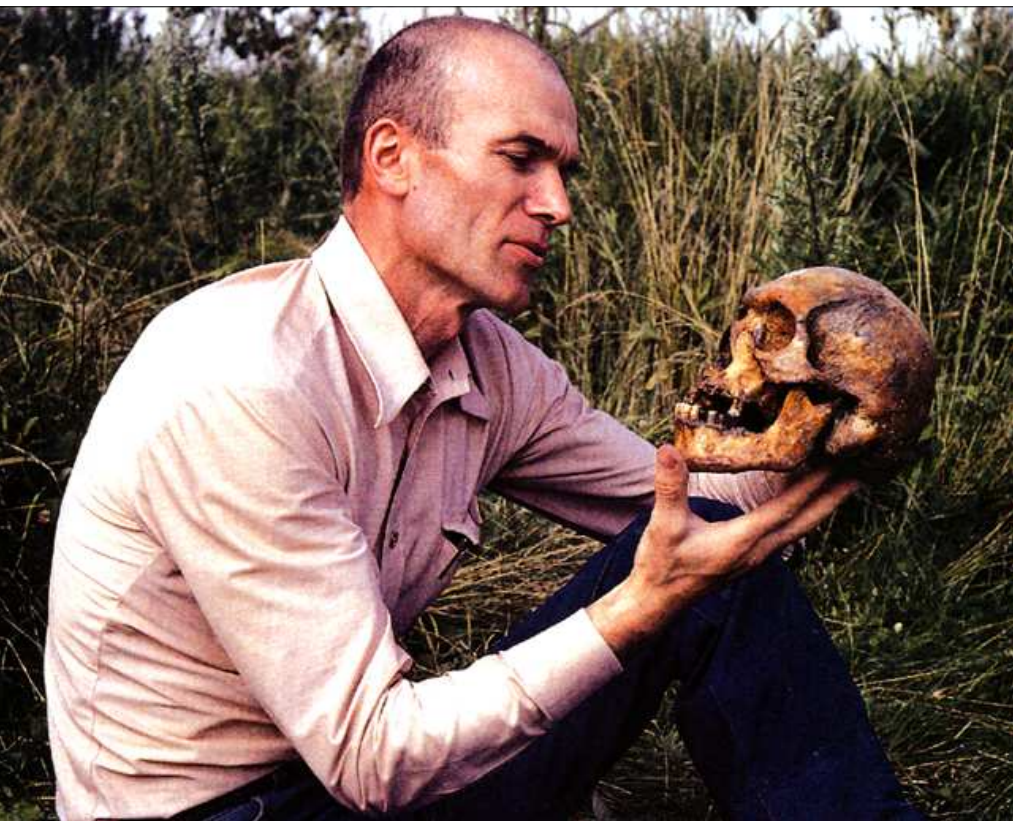


adulthood (two males and two females). The youngest child, a male named Khwit, died in 1954. All of the children had descendants.

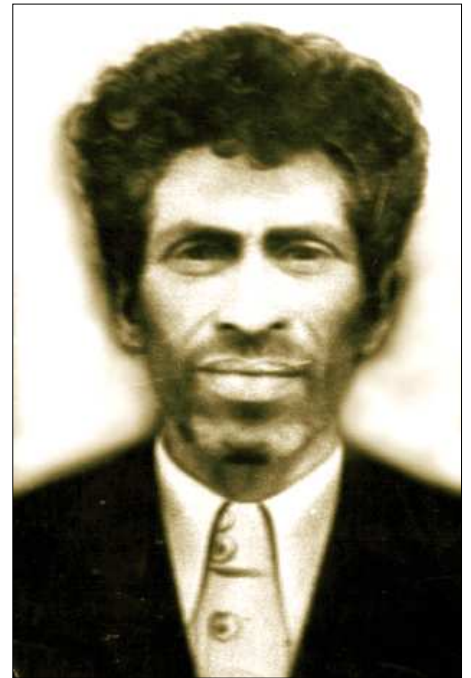
Several expeditions were made in the 1960s and 1970s (notably those headed by Professor Boris Porshnev and later Igor Bourtsev) to find Zana's grave and exhume her remains for examination. While many sites were explored, the researchers were unable to find a skeleton that matched the description of Zana. On the Bourtsev expedition of 1978, it was decided to exhume the remains of Khwit, whose grave was well indicated. The idea, of course, being to determine what traits he had inherited from his mother. Khwit's skull was taken to Moscow, for study.

While Russian anthropologists reported that the skull was different from that of ordinary human beings, such was not the opinion of Dr. Grover Krantz, an American anthropologist. Krantz stated that the skull is from a fairly normal modern human.

*Zana with a newborn. Immediately after birth, she washed her infants in a cold spring. Unable to stand the shock, they died. Villagers thereupon took newborns away from her. (Illustration by Brenden Bannon.)*

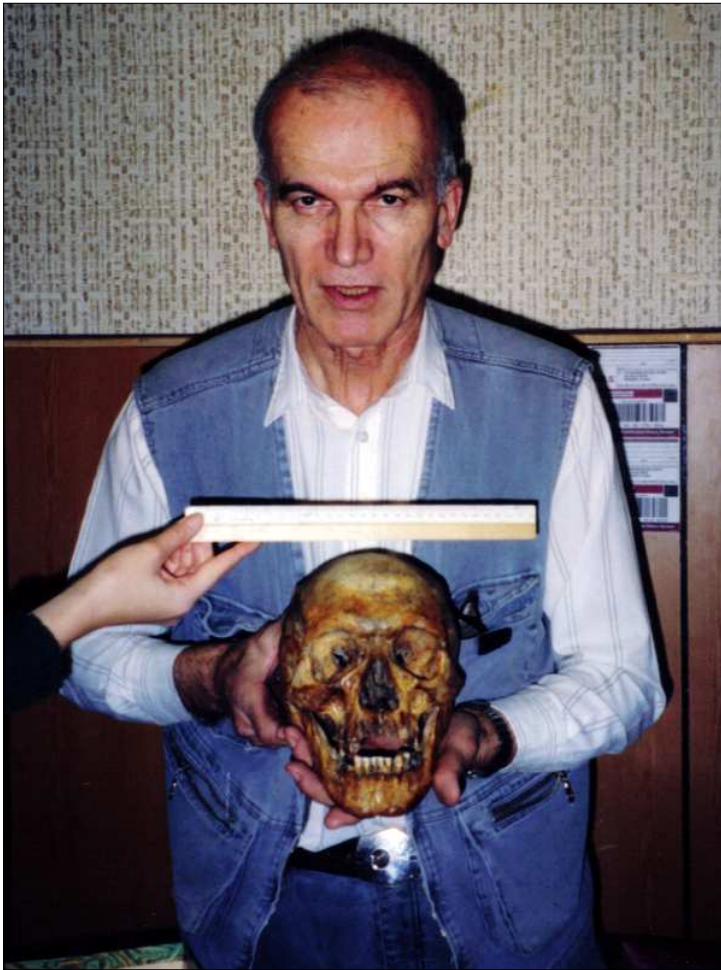


*Igor Bourtsev is shown here examining Khwit's skull at the grave site.*



*Khwit, Zana's youngest son. He was powerfully built, had dark skin, and was extremely difficult to deal with. Quick to pick a fight, he lost his right hand in one of his many violent engagements.*





*Igor Bourtsev with Khwit's skull, 2002. In July 2006, a tooth from the skull was removed and taken to New York by Igor to see if DNA could be extracted and analyzed. The project was sponsored by the National Geographic Society, which as of December 2007 had not yet provided an official report. A second testing was undertaken in 2007 by Whitewolf Entertainment through the University of Minnesota, but DNA could not be extracted from the tooth. We do not, therefore, have a conclusion on Khwit.*



*The Darwin Museum as it appears today.*



*The founders of hominoid research in Russia. (Left to right) Boris Porshnev, Alexander Mashkovtsev, Pyotr Smolin, Dmitri Bayanov, and Marie-Jeanne Koffmann. Photo taken January 1968.*



*Dmitri Bayanov with his beloved "Patty" (whom Dmitri himself named). The 8-foot (2.4-m) enlargement of the creature in the Patterson/Gimlin film was created by Scott McClean, and was displayed at the Willow Creek Bigfoot Symposium in September 2003. Over many years Dmitri has talked to me with such endearment for the creature, I jumped at the opportunity to bring the two together.*





Children such as those shown here who live in the vast rural areas of Russia are probably more likely to see a snowman or almasti than members of fully equipped expeditions.



This remnant of a possible snowman shelter was found in the Kirov region of Russia (near the Urals) in 2003. People in this region have lately reported considerable “wild man” activity, and local authorities are assisting in the search for the creature. Igor Bourtsev has been to the area twice since 2003. He informs us that local researchers are now using automatic video cameras along the supposed paths of the creatures.



(Above) Igor Bourtsev (right) with two Kirov region hunters, 2003. The center huntsman, Valery Sergeev, states that he has met wild men and their women and children many times over the last 20 years.



Igor Bourtsev compares his foot to a cast made from a footprint found in the Pamir–Alai Mountains (Tajikistan Republic), August 29, 1979. Several footprints were found in the morning about 70 feet (21.3 m) away from his group’s tents. The cast is about 14 inches (35.6 cm) long.



(Left to right) Dmitri Bayanov, Dr. Dmitri Donskoy, and Igor Bourtsev in about 1976. The statues shown were created by Igor Bourtsev of the creature seen in the Patterson/Gimlin film. Igor is holding a photograph of the Russian snowman print found in Tien Shan Mountains in 1962 (previously illustrated).