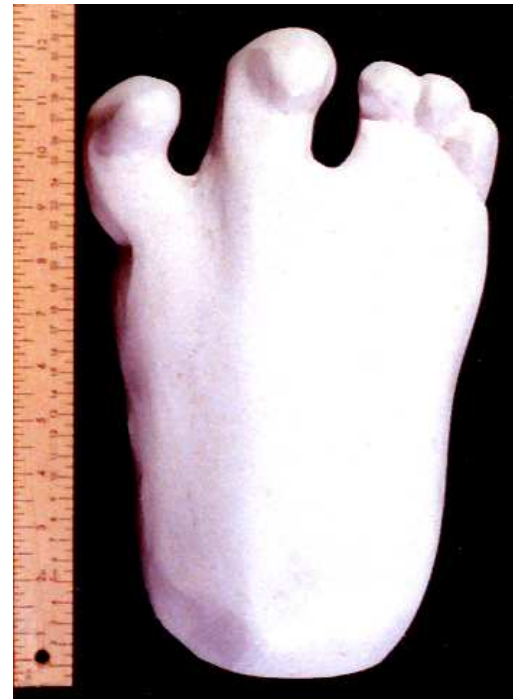


The Yeti

The yeti, which is said to inhabit the Himalayan Mountains, was first brought to the attention of the outside world about 120 years ago. Since that time, many expeditions have been undertaken to find the creature. There are many documented sightings, some very credible, but absolutely no photographic evidence. Alleged footprints in the snow remain the main tangible evidence of the creature's existence.

Perhaps one of the most notable yeti sighting took place in 1941. Slavomir Rawicz, along with six other escapees from a Siberian labor camp, reported a two-hour long observation of what appeared to be the mysterious creatures. The men were making their way through the Himalayas to India on foot when they spotted two animals of unknown identity far away in a snowfield. They needed food, and so seized the opportunity and hurried towards them.

When about 100 yards away, they were astonished see hair-covered creatures, about eight feet tall, one being a few inches taller



Yeti footprint cast (copy) created from a photograph. The cast is about 12.5 inches (31.8 cm) long.

*Below: Rawicz quietly viewing the unusual creatures.
(Illustration by Gary Krcjci.)*



“The inference here, therefore, is that hidden away in some lofty secluded monastery rests a real yeti scalp”

than the other, that walked on two legs. Their heads were squarish on shoulders that sloped sharply down to a powerful chest. Seen in profile, the back of the head was a straight line from the crown into the shoulders. Their arms were very long, making their wrists equal to knee level. They appeared to be covered by two distinct kinds of hair—reddish hair that gave them their characteristic color and forming a tight, close fur against the body, mingled with loose straight hairs of a slight grayish tinge that hung downwards.

The creatures were shuffling quietly around on a flattish shelf below the men’s position, blocking descent from the mountain. Rawicz stated that they were obviously aware of the group observing them, but apparently had no fear. The men waited for the creatures to go away and leave the way clear, which they eventually did, but without hurrying.

Speaking for the group about the experience, Rawicz stated, “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.” Rawicz’s book entitled *The Long Walk* (The Lyons Press, New York), includes this account. The book has been published in more than 25 languages.*

An alleged yeti scalp (one of three known to exist) was professionally examined and declared to have been made from the skin of a serow, a member of the goat-antelope family. It has been concluded that all known scalps are therefore *likely* fabricated.

It is possible, of course, that the scalp examined and other scalps were copied from an *original* yeti scalp. The yeti is held sacred in Tibet, so when one monastery *possibly* obtained a real scalp, all other monasteries probably wanted one. The monks in the other monasteries therefore probably made duplicate scalps. Over the centuries, all scalps would become “real” in the eyes and hearts of the monks.

The inference here, therefore, is that hidden away in some lofty secluded monastery rests a real yeti scalp. We might just wonder if the monks who have the original would even allow it to be viewed by outsiders, let alone be taken away for analysis. Is it possible the researchers were sidetracked? Nevertheless, it is entirely possible that one of the two scalps known to exist, but not examined, is the real scalp. These scalps are about 350 years old. I don’t have the specific age of the scalp that was examined.

Furthermore, an alleged yeti skeletal hand held together with wire was also uncovered and professionally examined. It was essentially declared to be made from part human and part non-human or animal bones. However, it is known that two bones from the hand (thumb and a finger) had been surreptitiously removed and replaced with human bones. When the hand was examined, human bones were naturally determined (see sidebar). Certainly, another examination should be performed on the hand, but gaining access might be a problem—if it is indeed still there. One source states that the entire hand was stolen in the late 1980s.*



Yeti speculations. The image of the creature in a prone position shows the way in which it is said to sleep.

* I have been informed that Eric Shipton, the distinguished mountaineer of the Himalayas, questioned Rawicz’s geography. Furthermore, Dr. John Napier of the Smithsonian Institution did not give the incident any credibility. He stated the following in his book *Bigfoot* (p. 42): “Rawicz’s report is unacceptable on functional grounds.”

Also, in May 2009 *Reader’s Digest* featured a story, “The Real Long Walk: Fifty years on a mystery is solved and a hero is revealed,” by John Dyson, which stated the story was stolen by Rawicz, and actually involves the experiences of Witold Glinski. There is no mention of the yeti sighting.

ANALYSIS OF THE ALLEGED YETI SKELETAL HAND

Dr. Desmond Doig: "It is possible some of the bones are not human, but almost certainly the best part of the hand is."

Sir Edmund Hillary: "This is essentially a human hand, strung together with wire, with the possible inclusion of several animal bones."

Dr. Marlin Perkins: "This turned out to be human."

It does not appear that the technology at that time was able to provide a definite identification of all of the bones in the the the hand.

UPDATE: IN 2011 THE TWO BONES REFERRED TO WERE FOUND IN A LABORATORY IN ENGLAND. DNA ANALYSIS WAS PERFORMED WHICH INDICATED THAT THE BONES WERE FROM A HUMAN.

The latest information on the yeti appeared in *The Times* (London, England) on February 4, 2001, and the entire story was later aired in a television documentary series entitled *To the Ends of the Earth*. A team of British scientists went on an expedition to Bhutan to seek evidence of the yeti's existence. Here they obtained the services of a resident "official yeti hunter." The yeti hunter told the scientists he had seen the creature enter a hollow at the base of a large cedar tree. He then led the scientists on a long arduous trek to the tree, which was situated in a forest in eastern Bhutan. One of the scientists, Dr. Rob McCall, a zoologist, obtained hair strands from the entrance to the hollow. It appears the creature scraped its shoulders or upper back against the tree as it bent over to enter the hollow, thereby leaving hair strands.

The hair was analyzed in Britain by Bryan Sykes, Professor of Human Genetics at the Oxford Institute of Molecular Medicine. Sykes stated, "We found some DNA on it, but we don't know what it is. It's not human, not a bear nor anything else we have so far been able to identify. It's a mystery and I never thought this would end in a mystery. We have never encountered DNA that we couldn't recognize before."**

My only comment here is that it is unfortunate the yeti hunter does not seem to own a camera, and I hope the British scientists provided him with one.

* The bones removed were analyzed by Dr. Osman Hill in London, England, who concluded they were human bones. The whereabouts of these specimens at this time is not known.

** It appears one (or more) of the hair strands had a root-bulb from which the DNA was obtained.

UPDATE: IN 2012 IS WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE HAIR WAS FROM A BEAR. I CONTINUE TO BE SURPRISED WITH THIS FINDING.



A view of Bhutan. Although the entire region is composed of rugged and lofty mountains, the lower elevations are a succession of belts of moist temperate forests, rhododendrons, and alpine meadows. (Image from Google Earth. Copyright 2008: DigitalGlobe; TerraMetrics.)



Sole of the foot of a Nepalese Hillman. This remarkable photograph taken by Peter Byrne clearly shows the effect of continually walking bare footed. Peter told me these people can step on a lit cigarette butt without feeling anything. It would stand to reason that the feet of hominids would be similar. However, I think cracks would fill up with soil so they would hardly register in footprints.



In 1966, Bhutan issued stamps showing five different views of the creature on fifteen different stamp denominations.

This Maldives Islands stamp souvenir sheet (1992) shows one of the yeti footprints discovered by Eric Sipton and Michael Ward on their 1951 Himalayan expedition. The text shown on the sheet reads:

The Yeti: Giant footprints have been encountered in the Himalayan mountain snows since 1887. Sometimes 18 inches in length and 7 inches wide, these tracks have been attributed to the Yeti or Abominable Snowman.

Note: I do not know of any 18-inch (45.7-cm) yeti tracks. They are usually much smaller. Also, the print appears to be missing a very small little toe. Furthermore, yeti footprints, like those of the sasquatch, are in a straight line (they do not alternate). What we see on this stamp sheet is an artist's conception.

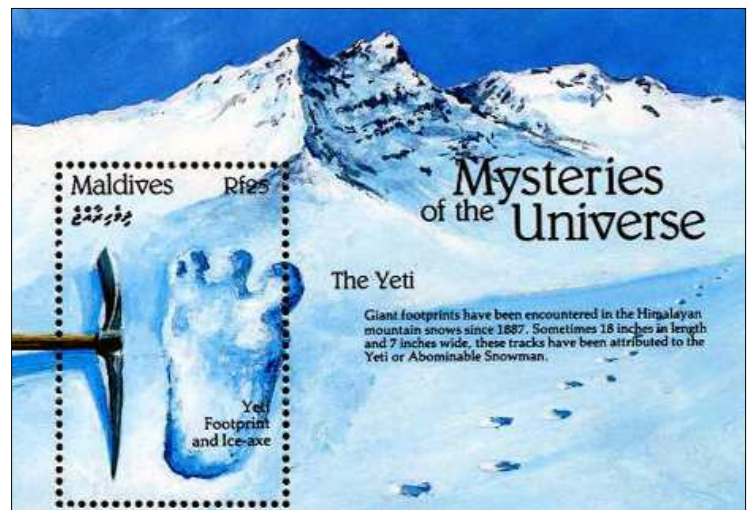
As with the sasquatch, the yeti has also found distinction on postage stamps. The following are examples (not actual sizes).



A Bhutan issue of 1970 certainly shows the creature as it is generally described and envisioned. The stamp is one of a set in 3D print format depicting animals from around the world. (A plastic overlay provides the 3D effect. The image shown here has been simulated.)



This 1996 Bhutan issue appears in a souvenir sheet with several other non-yeti-related stamps illustrating Bhutanese folk tales.



Facing Page: This is a portrait of a yeti by the famous naturalist artist Robert Bateman who would have based the image on numerous eyewitness accounts of the creature and the depictions of other artists. To my knowledge, there is no photograph of a yeti. Whatever the case, Bateman's insights are significant. If the creature does exist, then I would venture to say that the likeness shown here would be very close.

