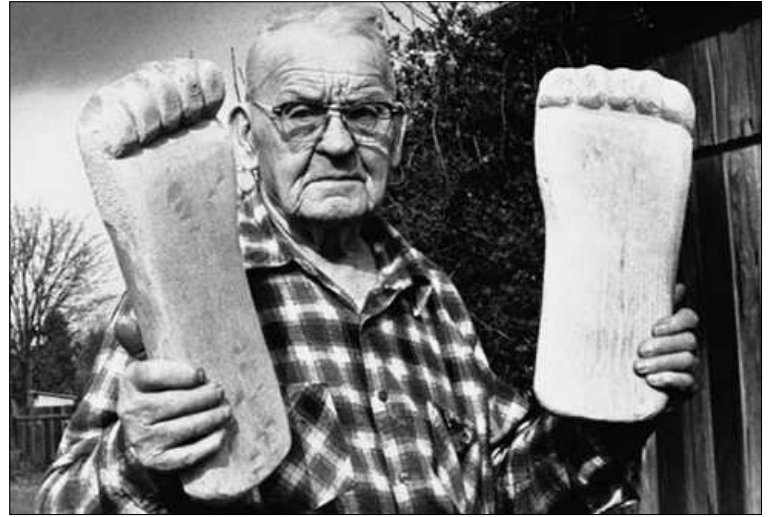


Water Under the Bridge—But Water Nonetheless

SHADES OF YOUTH

When I first entered the field of sasquatch research in 1993 I had absolutely no idea of anything to do with sasquatch. All that was in my head was a newspaper report from 1982 showing Rant Mullins (first photo) with a pair of wooden feet and claiming he was responsible for making “bigfoot” footprints that brought about the bigfoot mystery. Of course, this was impossible. He (and newspapers) had no idea of the footprints on record because very few photographs of prints had been published. Aside from that, I am sure I must have noticed the unkind cartoon (second photo) in my 1957 high school annual.



ENTER DAHINDEN

Upon meeting René Dahinden in March 1993 and listening to his accounts of sasquatch I was a little surprised that there was so much information. He later showed me the Patterson/Gimlin (P/G) film with his antique projector, but I certainly was not that impressed—just a little black thing rapidly walking across a creek sandbar.

Other than that, he did not show me photographs of anything, but did show me some of his sasquatch footprint casts. He told me he had good photographs taken from the film but they were in his safe and he had forgotten the combination. He eventually called in a locksmith and showed me what are called the Cibachrome images (12 very high quality photographs of the best film frames made in about 1980). They impressed me, but they were quite small, about 3.5 inches by 4.75 inches, although one photo (frame 352) he had enlarged. He had two sets of the prints so gave me one set to take home and study. I used a magnifying glass to look at them and noticed a few things.

STARK REALIZATION

We now had email and what was called the Internet Virtual Bigfoot Conference (IVBC). Thinking that everyone must have certainly seen the photographs and they had been studied to death, I sheepishly reported some of my simple observations. I got a reply asking what I was looking at to make my observations. I then realized that few people had seen the Cibachrome images. Five of the same frames had been used in the book, *Manlike Monsters on Trial*, UBC (1980).

I don't know how long the prints had been locked away in a safe, but I believe a very long time. I suppose René had shown them to some people when he first got

them in 1980, but obviously very little had been done with them. I don't think Dr. Grover Krantz had seen them because of the “bad blood” between René and Grover. Nevertheless, I doubt René would have provided them to any scientist; although I know he sent a slide of frame 352 to a scientist (David Daegling) who later wrote a scathing book on sasquatch. René died before the book was published, but had he lived he would have said to me, “See what I mean about those #^&* scientists,” and in this case I would certainly have agreed.



FACING THE FACTS

Few accredited scientists have really studied the sasquatch issue and I believe that, like me at first, they just don't know the subject exists or simply don't think it's worth looking at because of all the negative information “out there.” Had I been an anthropologist at the time I met René, I think I would have given the subject quite a bit of thought.

Of course, as I have mentioned previously in other papers several times, professional people prefer to look at professional literature, and images from the P/G film were not essentially shown with proper analysis in a book written by a PhD anthropologist until 2006—*Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science*, by Dr. Jeff Meldrum. I don't want to sound like a broken record (if you go back that far) but books on subjects of this nature not written by a PhD anthropologist are not worth much “scientifically.”

WHAT ABOUT WEBSITES?

The same thing is true for websites, but in this case not only must the material being presented be by professionals, or approved by such, but the website itself must be sponsored by a university. We have only one website that meets these conditions, the Relict Hominoid Inquiry.

There are many really great sasquatch/bigfoot websites and if you have wondered why that with so much information out there we have not made more progress with scientists, well, that's the answer—few, if any visit non-professional websites.

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS SYNDROME

Now, although what has been said sounds rough, it gets rougher. To assure a book gets attention by scientists, it needs to be published by a university press. Unfortunately, this creates a bit of a catch-22 situation. For a university press to publish a book, then the university must condone the contents of the book. Presenting a book that suggests the sasquatch is a living entity would be far too much for any university. We did, however, get that far in 1977 with a book edited by Dr. Roderick Sprague and Dr. Grover Krantz entitled *The Scientist Looks at the Sasquatch* (University Press of Idaho); but the book was rather limited in scope as to images (nothing from the P/G film and few footprint and cast photos).

THE LACK OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

Dr. Grover Krantz stated in his book *Bigfoot/Sasquatch Evidence* (1999, p.235):

The majority of scientists in these concerned areas (primatology, zoology, etc.) if asked today will express their opinion that no such animal [sasquatch] exists. If pressed for details, they will also admit that they know nothing about the evidence that has been gathered.

If we consider 1967 as the year the most significant evidence of sasquatch existence came to light (footprints on Blue Creek Mountain and the P/G film) then 32 years had elapsed by the time Krantz uttered these words. It does not appear that he questioned why this was the situation. Although he was a PhD anthropologist, he either was unable to, or chose not to, have both of his books published by a university press—I believe the former. I am sure quite a few professionals read his books, but I will guess much fewer than if his books were published by a university press. Indeed, I don't think his first book, *Big Footprints*, (1992), had significant sales. I telephoned the publisher, Johnson

Books, (Mr. Johnson I believe) in the late 1990s to ask about having the company publish one of my books. I mentioned Krantz's book and Mr. Johnson's comments implied that sale of this book had been poor and they didn't want to get into doing another book on the subject. Johnson was quite terse in telling me this.

I did not know what I am stating here as to PhDs and university presses until fairly recently. In about 2002 I reasoned that if I wrote a book that contained everything I could lay my hands on as to images, this would "break the ice." My full-color coffee table book, *Meet the Sasquatch*, (2004), was the result. It has full coverage of the P/G film and all the most important footprints and casts. Only one scientist provided a book review (very favorable) on this book. Nothing daunting, I added 80 pages and produced *Know the Sasquatch: Sequel and Update* (2010). I did not get a review by any PhD on this book. Producing books of this nature is extremely costly and time consuming. I was lucky to have Hancock House Publishers undertake the publishing. Sales were reasonable, but other than the professionals in our ranks, I doubt the books adorn the bookshelf of any PhD anthropologists.

WHAT ABOUT SASQUATCH EXHIBITS

Even my sasquatch exhibits, although very popular, have not, to my knowledge, impressed the "scientific world." The exhibits, all held in public museums (7 in all) for the most part have been very impressive, generally with considerable resources required to present them. I received only one comment from an anthropologist (Museum of Vancouver, 2004/5). In the guest book he scolded the Museum for presenting the subject. There were many pages of complimentary remarks from regular patrons; over 25,000 people saw the exhibit.

THE ABOMINATION

When the skeptical book *Abominable Science* by Daniel Loxton and Donald Prothero came out in 2013, I was astounded to see that this work had been published by a university (Columbia University Press). Prothero is a PhD, Loxton a writer, and their book (chapter on sasquatch—all that I read) is absolutely not scientific; just general circumstantial stories and speculations. When I originally got into the sasquatch issue I looked at the circumstantial evidence and argued that it needed to be taken into consideration with regard to tangible evidence. I was quickly corrected by Dr. Meldrum that it was the tangible or hard evidence only (specifically footprint photographs and plaster casts) that were the deciding

factors. If they indicated a natural being created the prints, everything else is immaterial. He is right, and from then on I have ignored all the stories, and ridiculous theories based on them as to considering such actual evidence. It really surprised me that the authors of *Abominable Science* and Columbia University ignored this basic scientific rule and produced the book. If hearsay and “stories” take precedence over hard evidence, then I am sure we can find enough material to prove the moon landing was a hoax. I even argued with John Green on this issue when he objected to my use of certain material. I asked him, “Who do you want me to believe, you or the scientists?” He thought for a moment and said, “Well, I guess the scientists.” We never broached the subject again and I went forward with what the scientists said. The point here is that if you disagree with what the scientists say about something, you must make your point on what they say. You don’t say the evidence is a hoax because the person who found it has a bad reputation. I called this reasoning The Long Shot Factor, based on the book by Greg Long. It is now the LLP Factor. I am sure you can sort that out.

Whatever the case, the authors did it—and sadly this is the book that now represents the general “scientific” opinion on the sasquatch/bigfoot issue. I would say that its publication has set us back about 10 years. How could professionals and university administrators prostitute themselves in this way? No doubt these authors are akin to the group that said it was impossible to have a duck-billed mammal that lays eggs, and even when one was put on the table they would have said it was a hoax.

The bottom line is, if you have four (4) PhD scientists who have (or had) been involved in the sasquatch/bigfoot issue for over 20 years each, and they say that sasquatch photographs and artifacts indicate they came from a natural being, do you believe them or a couple of fly-by-night PhDs and a writer who say everything is fake?

A RARE SPECIES—PhD ANTHROPOLOGISTS

One thing you must keep in mind is that PhD anthropologists are almost as rare as sasquatch. There are 20,326 PhD anthropologists in the USA,* and by my own calculation about 10,000 sasquatch in North America (USA and Canada). When you consider the size of the USA, and that of both the USA and Canada, you will get an idea of the “rarity.” Let me put it this way, if all anthropologists in the USA were to wear a red hat, you would have a tough time sighting one unless you haunted a university campus. I don’t think my figure includes retired individuals, and I estimate

this to be about 2,950 in the USA and about 311 in Canada,** so a total of 3,260 in North America. **Generally speaking, only retired PhD anthropologists are the most likely to venture into the sasquatch issue and truly study it.** I can therefore say that “available” PhD anthropologists are about three times as rare as sasquatch. Is there any wonder why we are not getting anywhere with the “world of science?”

Now, don’t get me wrong, but once somebody gets into his or her senior years he or she automatically loses credibility. Dr. Daris Swindler, who literally wrote the book on anthropology, was an avid sasquatch enthusiast in his retirement years. His involvement did not have a lot of influence. I must admit that I am now in that retirement class myself.

DR. MELDRUM'S BOOK

Dr. Jeff Meldrum’s book *Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science* met three conditions—written by a PhD anthropologist, good P/G film coverage and good footprint/cast coverage. In my opinion, however, all of the clearest images in the P/G film should have been presented full page and in color. Also, all of the most important casts should have been presented in color and each one discussed. From a scientific standpoint, Dr. Meldrum did a great job, everything is essentially there. I just think we need to drive home all of the evidence we have in the most impressive way we can. This is done by printing the entire book in color on semi-gloss paper. Keep in mind that people are people regardless of their station in life and if they are impressed with something then they will give it extra attention.

The last condition, printed by a university press, was not met. Nevertheless, I believe Dr. Meldrum’s book got much further into the “scientific establishment” than any of my books, or any other book not written by a PhD anthropologist. It has been eleven years since the book was published, so perhaps it is now time for Dr. Meldrum or another anthropologist to write another book and get a university to publish it. There are copyright issues, but somehow they simply must be addressed.

POOR OLD DR. KRANTZ

In retrospect, the unavailability of the P/G film images (need for payment) and proper photographs of all the important footprint casts (simply not photographed and available until 2004) left our argument very thin,

*Unable to find a figure for Canada. **Calculated using percentages of general population.

right up to 2006 when Dr. Meldrum's book was published, which certainly cleaned things up and straightened things out, from a scientific standpoint; although I think more could have been done as I have stated. If Dr. Krantz could have used all the clearest P/G film images and all the cast photographs back in 1992, I think this might have made a difference.

A LITTLE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

On the positive side, there is absolutely nothing wrong with carrying on with what we are doing, despite the lack of professional involvement. I don't think that anything other than tangible evidence will "turn the tide," but if we could get "Hominology" accepted as a valid scientific discipline things would move in the right direction. Dmitri Bayanov has justified this concept and his work will soon be made available. If accepted, the way would be cleared for scientists to pursue sasquatch/bigfoot studies without fear of reprimand. This process has happened before in history with other subjects and the result was that proof was found to turn supposition into fact.

The problem, of course, is getting Bayanov's material into the hands of professionals who can do something. Sending emails and pdfs is virtually free, but getting such individuals to look at them and read about 100 pages of text is bordering on the impossible. I can tell you from experience that if you don't have a PhD you won't get anywhere with any university on the planet. Even then, all a PhD does is "get you in the door." There is no guarantee that you will not simply get lost in the "halloed halls."

What about printed books? Do they get looked at? First off, this is expensive because you must provide the books free of charge. If the book was written by a PhD anthropologist it will likely get on someone's desk; but if it was not published by a university, you are likely left "dead in the water."

STICKING OUT MY NECK

Most (by far) of the best evidence, notwithstanding the P/G film was collected by Canadian researchers (Titmus, Green, Dahinden, Bindernagel and Steenburg). The 406 sighting/incident reports collected for British Columbia (*Sasquatch in British Columbia*, 2012) and additional reports provided on the Sasquatch Canada website, were not as susceptible to hoaxing as in the USA. Hoaxes in BC are rare, with only one of any significance (Mission, 1977). Certainly Green, Dahinden and Titmus collected prints in California, but with a difference—the men's credibility was very high. That BC was the location of three great and questionable "classics"—Jacko, Serephine Long (story by John Burns), and Albert Ostman, should not be used as a reason to discount all of the other reports. Also, keep in mind that the P/G film was originally screened at the University of British Columbia and Green and Dahinden were the major proponents of its authenticity (having personally known Patterson and Gimlin, and being among the first to see the film).

Perhaps, just for the sake of the benefit of the doubt, I can ask that the next fly-by-night scientist concentrate on just the material researched by Canadians (notwithstanding the P/G film) and sightings/incidents in BC. Come up this way and discuss things with Thomas Steenburg and John Bindernagel (the others mentioned have passed on), and look around a bit. You won't find a McDonalds every half-mile, so pack a sandwich and a thermos.

I hope I have not offended USA bigfoot enthusiasts; it's just that I think things have gotten out-of-hand a little as to hoaxes in the USA. The Georgia Bigfoot fiasco was beyond belief and YouTube videos are giving us a very bad name (although I can't say all the ridiculous ones originated in the US). Am I upset with Loxton, Prothero, and Daegling—you bet!

Anyway, all I can say is, "Here we are," and hopefully learn a little from the water that has passed under the bridge.

