

## THE PARACAS SKULL

There is no greater baffling enigma than the case of the Paracas skull. In 1993, a large slab of rock broke off the cliffs on the Yumague Inlet on the Paracas Peninsula. The *Ojo Newspaper* in Lima, Peru, published an article on November 17, 2003 of the incredible discovery of a fossilized human skull and other fossils in a layer of rock dated to sixty million years ago. The article by Augustin Figueroa, described the fossil human skull, and it was accompanied with photos by Luis Agois Banchero. The slab of stone was about twenty feet long and ten feet wide. At first, one of the fossils was thought to be a turtle extinct one hundred twenty million years ago, but the turtle was not in the rock slab but found on top of the cliff near where the slab broke off.

One photo has a medical doctor with a modern human skull on the rock next to El Hombre, the fossilized skull.

D. Alejandro Pezzia Asserto, a well-known archaeologist and anthropologist for Ica, examined the fossil skull, and it was fossilized and closely resembled the skulls of the Paracas people who inhabited the peninsula from roughly 700 B.C. to 100 A.D.

Authorities for the Paracas Museum, just a few miles away, were dispatched to the site and indeed declared it to be a fossil human skull. The site was part of the Paracas Natural Preserve and was well secluded. The Department of Culture of the Province of Ica, some thirty-five miles away, was notified, and Peruvian Paleontologists examined the skull and were equally certain it was a fossil human skull in an Eocene layer. The incredible mystery is why it was not immediately excavated, but the novice has never dealt with Peruvian red tape and bureaucracy along with corruption.

I viewed the site, wrote about it in my book, Secrets of the Ica Stones and Nazca Lines, and was convinced it was a fossil human skull. I have seen many fossil turtles and no one was confused that it was a fossil turtle. No turtle fossils were found on the rock itself.

When I brought a team of geologists from the United States to investigate the slab fossil skull, it had been vandalized-evidentially, chiseled out of the rock. We took before and after photographs.

Fossil clams were found in near live positions around the area where the skull had been with both valves articulated and closed. The rock formation with the clams and skull had been buried in a sudden catastrophe with a thickness of one hundred meters.

Dr. Dave McQueen, Don Patton, and I, presented a paper with photos to the Geology Society of America's annual convention in Salt Lake City, September, 1997, in front of thousands of geologists, archaeologists, and paleontologists.<sup>1</sup> Our predictions were

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<sup>1</sup> Dave McQueen, Don Patton, Dennis Swift. *Geology Society of America Abstracts*. "Catastrophic Depositional Events Within the Upper Eocene Paracas Formation of the Coastline of Peru", (September, 1997).

accurate in that over sixty fossilized Balen whales were found in remarkable preservation in the same Paracas Peninsula by Loma Linda University.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Radl Esperonte. Geoscience Research Institute. *Geoscience Reports*: “Balen Whales in Southern Peru. (No. 34, Fall, 2002).