



Culture Inscribed

The Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology
California State University - Fresno

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Anthropologist of the Fortnight Sir E.E. Evans-Pritchard (1902-1973)

Evans-Pritchard was one of Great Britain's most significant figures in the development of social anthropology. He is best known for his work amongst the Azande and Nuer tribes of southern Sudan and his theoretical work in the area of religion is still influential. Evans-Pritchard argued against the notion of anthropology as a natural science (argued by Radcliffe-Brown and others) and believed that the field is best understood as one of the humanities. In terms of the study of religion, he claimed that the researcher's personal perspective on religion heavily influenced that person's research of religion. Evans-Pritchard argued that non-believers are more likely to explain religious experience in terms of biological or psychological theories that accommodate illusion, whereas believers are more likely to explain religion in terms of humans' conceptualization of reality.

Anthropological Terms of Interest

Cultural anthropologists describe **rites of intensification** as opportunities for members of a culture to strengthen the bonds that hold them together or reaffirm processes germane to their survival (e.g., the Roman Catholic rite of confirmation).

Culture Quip

Topic: The end of a 3 hour lecture on double negatives.

Linguistic Anthropologist: "Finally, let me conclude by stating emphatically that there are cases where a double negative stays a negative (e.g., Russian), and some cases where it is a positive (e.g., English), but never does a double positive become a negative."

CSUF Student (Mumbling): 'Yeah, right!'

AnthroAnnouncements Department Reception

The anthropology department will be throwing our annual **start of the year reception** on Wed., Sep. 7, from 1:30-4:00pm in Peters 390. Distinguished graduate of CSUF Anthropology, **Professor Philip Bock** of University of New Mexico department of Anthropology will be out special guest. As a distinguished Professor of **Psychological Anthropology** and member of a strong department of anthropology with a great graduate program, I encourage students interested in these areas to attend and meet one of our most distinguished alumnus.

Who is Professor Philip K. Bock, Ph.D.

Major Areas of Research: Psychological and Cognitive Anthropology; Ethnomusicology; Theater, North American Indians (Micmac, Southern Ute), Mexican Peasants (Morelos; Yucatan), Elizabethan England (especially works of Shakespeare)

The AnthroClub will hold a meeting Wed., Sep. 7, from 1:30-3:30pm in Peters 390 towards the end of the department reception. All are welcome.

Get a Job

I have heard about a job opportunity that is looking for ethnographic market researchers. The job looks interesting and pays well (\$11-15 and hour). If interested, the job is posted on the CVAAN website (Central Valley Applied Anthropology Network) under "job opportunities" at:

www.csufresno.edu/Anthropology/CALPO/CVAAN.htm

Applied Anthropology in the fastest growing area of anthropology and the majority of recently graduated PhDs in Anthro are "Applied" (i.e., they have real jobs and make real money in stead of becoming professors). This is the first job opportunity I have seen in our area that specifically looks for those trained in ethnography. So seize the day (and do tell me if you get the job)! – Jim

Contributing Editorial Board

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Faculty Advisor: James Mullooly, PhD **Website:** www.csufresno.edu/Anthropology/newsletter

Local Anthro News

Prehistoric tusk found near Pixley

The rare, 100,000-year-old artifact was discovered on a dairy farm in Tulare County. (Reprinted with permission from the author)

By Lewis Griswold

The Fresno Bee (Saturday, July 16, 2005)

PIXLEY — The fossilized ivory tusk of an extinct woolly mammoth — cracked with age and battered by an earthmover — has been discovered at a dairy farm in rural Tulare County.

The tusk, part of which was removed earlier this week, is estimated to be 100,000 years old, said California State University, Fresno, anthropology professor Roger LaJeunesse.

"There's no teeth, no skull, no bones," LaJeunesse said. "It was one tusk, not two. It was weathered."

Still, to find any part of a woolly mammoth, a relative of the Asian elephant, in the dirt of the San Joaquin Valley is pretty rare, he said.

It is the fourth Valley find of a woolly mammoth tusk that LaJeunesse knows of, the others being major finds at:

Fairmead Landfill in Madera. The area was the confluence of two prehistoric rivers. Excavation has also recovered more than 14,000 specimens, including the bones of mammoths, saber-tooth cats, giant sloths, camels and prehistoric horses.

Livingston.

Church and Orange streets in Fresno.

The Tulare County tusk was uncovered on Dec. 27 at the Airoso dairy near Pixley.

"You don't really know what to do" with it, dairyman Joey Airoso said.

He rejected the advice of fellow farmers to bury it or remove it and just keep quiet.

"We're trying to do the right thing," said Airoso.

He had hired his relative Dan Freitas, 70, who has been operating earthmoving equipment most of his life, to dig a lagoon out of soft, Valley dirt washed down by melting glacier ice over the millennia.

About 20 to 25 feet down, Freitas suddenly felt the front scoop hit a hard object, so he got out to take a look. He found a 10-foot long, curved object lying horizontally in the ground. Although it was caked with claylike dirt, and the top of it was partially shaved off by the earthmover, he saw right away it was shaped like a tusk and had the creamy look of ivory.

In 50 years of moving earth, Freitas has never uncovered anything like it, Airoso said.

"It's unbelievable that he felt it because those earthmovers are so big," Airoso marveled.

Several feet away, Freitas also found a smaller object that turned out to be the jaw of an ancient camel.

"Everybody is pretty excited about it," Airoso said.

Airoso's son Joe, 18, a student at Tulare Western High School, got on the Internet and determined the curved object was probably a tusk from a woolly mammoth.

Airoso gave a chip of the white fossil to his daughter Amanda, a college student in Fresno, who took it to the anthropology department at Fresno State.

LaJeunesse knew right away it was the real thing, so he and fellow anthropology professor John Pryor headed to Pixley. They sprayed the tusk with polyvinyl acetate to harden it for removal.

"Some of it was in bad shape," LaJeunesse said. "It took a rough bounce" earlier in its history, even before being dug up, he said.

He called on geologist Robert Merrill from Fresno State, who determined the lone tusk had washed down to its present site with other debris, implying that the animal had died elsewhere.

The mammoth became extinct about 11,000 to 12,000 years ago, possibly due to hunting by man. The mammoth was a large animal, standing about 15 feet high at the crown of the head. It ate grasses and lived in Europe, North America and Asia.

In this area, it roamed when the climate was cooler and wetter.

The tusk was found in an area that was once braided with streams, Merrill said. The shoreline of ancient Tulare Lake was not far away; the tusk was found at 221 feet above sea level, while the lakeshore was 210 feet above sea level.

LaJeunesse called lay paleontologist Diane Blades, who has years of experience uncovering fossils at the Fairmead Landfill. She went to Pixley and said that the tusk was probably 100,000 years old.

Despite finding a "very large rock" about 10 feet away, conceivably a weapon, "there isn't any hint of a relationship to early man," LaJeunesse said. "The evidence isn't there."

Earlier this week, LaJeunesse and Pryor removed a chunk of the tusk and took it to McLane Laboratory at Fresno State to see whether they could figure out the species of woolly mammoth. The two main species are Columbian and Imperial.

They left behind a smaller chunk that had broken off because the weather was unbearably hot, despite their use of a market umbrella. They intend to remove the rest of the tusk soon.

The reporter can be reached at lgriswold@fresnobee.com or (559) 622-2416.