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Notice !

Bernard D. Parsons will be away from usiness until December 4th.

Art Before Adam

(Continued) The South African Bushmen, who are actually negroid Aurignacianssurviving black Stone Age menhave a similar way of picturing animals of the chase in hidden "holy"

based on the analogy of these Bushmen, the Australian aborigines, and paintings were done by tribal medi- down to such small sizes. cine men or sercerers, as a "magic," to bring good hunting. The reprerough sketch of a bishop's crown. These tectiforms, as they are called, are thought to have represented ern Siberian shamans, or witchwild places little wooden "nestingboxes" where dwell ancestral spirits). found. They may have been reserved

Indians called them. Another curious thing about the cave nictures is that the occasional human figures or human faces are so bad. The animals: for the most part. are as excellent as anything that the not a single well-executed complete engraving of a Stone Age man on the cave walls. What there are, are disappointing. Instead of pictures of fur shirt and brandishing a hefty stone axe or club, which is what we feel entitled to expect, we find schoolhovish scrawls of what look much more like naked monkeys, in clambering attitudes, or the sort of "human" heads that Tommy achieves at the age of two. Such figures of the ladies of the time are gross nudes such as are periodically inflicted on the Continental public by the "comic" papers of France and Germany. Another mystery is the life-sized imprints of human hands to be found here and there. We were not able to find those which are said to exist in the cave we have just explored, but there are quite a number farther south, in the Cavern of Gargas. "Cave hands" are of two kinds. Sometimes the artist just dipped his hand n black paint and smacked it on to or black paint, from a brush held in hypothsis.

the right hand. Now there is a very interesting hands. Some of the fingers lack a joint or two: The missing joints may have served to console a wolf or hyena for losing the rest of the tooagile human dinner they had chosen, islanders of the Entrecasteaux group.

north-east of New Guinea. . . . Well, let us get back, to dejeuner.

Combarelles, which we will explore this afternoon, lies a mile-and-a-half east of Font de Gaume. We follow the road along under the south cliff of the Beune valley until it dips, on the right, to admit a tiny shallow valley consisting of a meadow flanked by low cliffs and backed by rocks. A hundred yards up it, on the right, a little long, low farmhouse nestles under the rock. And next to it is a short hall-like cave used as a storehouse for farm tools. Sheaves of entrance, whih is overhung by a clustoral scene. Who would suspect that from the left of that rock barn, with its familiar clutter of farm gear-a plough, a cart, bundles of brushwood, sacks, and forks and spades-ran a deep fissure that is one of the most

extraordinary places on earth? Its setting is perfect. A bright-faced woman leaves her toddling baby son and comes forward to meet us. "Do Messieurs desire to explore the cave? Madame must be careful of her frock and hat, then," for this is no place for a conventional

It doesn't take us long to find that out. Combarelles is called a cave. It isn't a cave. It is a crack, a crack where thin men have to creep single file and fat men cannot creep at all. it runs into limestone hill for a third of a mile, and most of the way you are crouching in the attitude of a proquet hoop. Now and again come plessed moments when you can stand up, with your head among the stalactites that come down from the mysterious blackness overhead like giant,

You have to creep a long way be ore you come to the pictures—but hey are worth it. Nearly all the pictures are engravings, mainly the work of early Magdalenian man. They are heavily incised into the rock and are much clearer than the late Magdalenian engravings in Font de Gaume, which were done probably thousands of years later. The wild horses are

of them have what my nephew, speak-

rude look!" The engraving was all done with stone tools, many of which were found when Canitan and Breuil first explored it. The average person does not give Stone Age man enough credit for the skill and ingenuity with which he fashioned his implements. The conclusion of anthropologists, Of the gravers (flint chisels) alone, more than 20 distinct types were made. As for Magdalenian man's the Eskimo, and a quantity of evi- bone needles, they are as perfect as dence too technical to be instanced any of modern Shieffield's products, here, is that these drawings and though, of course, they do not run

Searching with our electric torches and candles on forked sticks we find sentation of the beast put a spell up depicted more than a dozen mamon it. Among other engravings you moths, numbers of heads of men or noticed in Font de Gaume were some monkeys, a human leg, a bear, a lion, odd looking criss-cross marks, like a a wolf's head, oxen, bison, reindeer, and other creatures.

Why, you may ask, are there no rats and mice, dogs or cats? Rats homes prepared by the sorcerers for and mice certainly existed in those ancestral spirits. (Travelling in days, and must have been familiar to Northern Asia, I found that the mod- early Stone Age man. Had he been a farmer with rickyards to be ray- but after a couple of hundred yards mobilier," each a horse's head doctors, prepare and place out in aged he might well have asked the you bear off to the left, where a great scratched on bone. One was brought sorcerer to put a spell on them. But mushroom-shaped buttress of cliff to Professor Boyd Dawkins by a perhe had not yet taken to agriculture bastions the entrance to a narrow, son who claimed to have found it in Few of these tectiforms have been or the domestication of animals; had lateral valley, resembling that up the Robin Hood Cave at Cresswell he done so we should have found which we found Font de Gaume yes- Crags, in Derbyshire, forty-six years for the spirits of chiefs, or socerers, some remains of his gear and bones terday. This looming bastion, which ago. The second was brought to the or, most likely, perhaps, for the of his herding dogs and farm beasts. juts out over the road, at a height of Science Master of Sherborne School, gods of hunting and hill, forest, and He was still a hunter, pure and 100 feet or so, is called the Rocher in Dorset, nine years ago, by a couple stream—the Great Spirits, as the Red simple.

tional evidence that the pictures were | plank" off the edge. "magic," not merely decorations or spells the sorcerer felt able to pro- ing, flickering colour-pale and dark are few pictures of dangerous wild who comes boldly down the middle beasts, for Stone Age man's policy of the road as if he owned it. ands them, as is that of savage

and not to provoke combat. ing for more by fighting wild beasts. into shady woods of chestnut and are missing, nor are there badgers. of beauty and utter peace. Frogs and moles may have been eateagled fingers, on the wall and ran a result. You see how the evidence lene lamp and leads the way to La veal, in England, one of these marround its outline with a line of red all seems to bear out the "magic"

There are a few pictures of what ism. . . But the afternoon is to where, by a couple of plum trees, but they may have been lopped off as closing in. Let us go back to the inn, the meadow dips in a shallow dell. a method of mourning a near relative, to dine and sleep. To-morrow we At the back of the dell is a looselysome of the primitive Melanesian the third great Stone Age art gal- the middle of it, a stout door. lery, the cavern of La Mouthe. . . .

in after them, and were quite snug Beune you turn to the right, to-day,

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Up the valley of La Gaubere we

to-day, was to let well enough holds the sun, and heat radiates from pictures). the rocks. Presently, the meadow creatures not desirable as food. Bats heather. A place of sun and shade,

We take a track off to the right, en, but it would not have been worth among small stony upland fields that sibility that one of these days an achaving spells put on them, for any straggle through the low, poorly cident like the digging out of the fox small boy could go out and catch nourished trees where the earth on that rocky hill-side of Norththem. Bird pictures are very rare. grows thin on the rocks. It twists West Spain, which revealed the pal-Stone Age man could hardly have and turns, leading eventually, through acolithic art gallery of Altamira Cave, been expected to bother himself much a belt of richer woodland, to a farm or the La Mouthe farmer's enlargeabout birds as a food supply. They in the wood. Here we introduced our ment of his barn in the side of that selves, and a man picks up an acety-Mouthe.

The entrance to Combarelles was unobtrusive. La Mouthe is even more may be flowers, leaves, plants, and of a surprise. Where can it be?thing about some of those Gargas branches. Perhaps these were prized you wonder. This is not "cavey" for their medicinal qualities, or, per- land. There are no cliffs. It might trimmed. BOWRING BROTHhaps, their representation was sym- be any upland landscape in Brittany bolical or connected with some of the or Sweden. The man with the lamp practices or ideas of pagan mystic- leads us round a spur of the wood practice that exists to-day among will go up into the hills and look for made wall of whitish rock, and, in

The short cave here, the shape of There have been some strenuous a big cottage loaf, was used, like the and picturesque goings-on in sleepy vestibule of Combarelles, as a barn. little Les Eyzzies in recent centuries. In enlarging it the farmer's excava-As you pass through the village you tions brought to light a low tunnel see on a terrace of the cliff above, a leading out of the back. The mouth rebuilt castle dating from the time had evidently collapsed and become of William the Conqueror. When the completely hidden before the time of English troops were fighting down neolithic (late Stone Age) man, for here, five centuries ago, they took it; in upper layers of the yard of sucand had it knocked down on them. cessive estrata of soil and stalagmite Here and there, high up on the face that was lifted from the floor of the of the cliff, you see the black mouths vestibule were found numerous Neoof tunnels, laboriously excavated by lithic remains, though in the long the mediaeval villagers as places of newly-revealed cave traces of only refuge when waves of war swept over palaeolithic occupation were disthe neighbourhood. They clambered covered. Under the late Stone Age grain are piled at one side of the up on long ladders which they pulled relics in the vestibule, and separated by a layer of stalagmite, Riviere ter of ivy. A pleasant tranquil pas- and secure. Across the bridge of the found early Stone Age implements, including a fine sandstone lamp, still blackened at the side of the shallow bowl, where the pre-Adamite owner had laid the wick of moss or dead wood, the root end of which lay in the congealed fat or tallow. This lamp was decorated with a carved to move your soul. See it at the Popu-But let us enter.

You will find La Mouthe, narrow as it is, ceilinged with drooping stalactites that must have prompted many an Early Stone Age "cussword" from the lips of artist-sorcerers stoop quite far enough, and muddy Street .- nov16,61 underfoot, in the conduit trench through which you wend your way, more pleasant to explore than Font de Gaume or Combarelles. The air is fresher and there are fewer of the narrows through which you have harely room to squeeze.

There are numbers of very clear pictures, especially in a sort of little ante-chamber or alcove half-way lown, on the right, where several nammoth and ibex and reindeer are to be seen. Further along, in the main corridor, are bison and wild | horse, ox and mammoth and rein-

Is there anything like this in Engand, you ask, as we tramp down he chestnut woods, to Les Eyzles. No prehistoric wall paintings or

ngravings have yet been found in

de la Peine. Villagers who commit- of boys of that seat of learning. Per-The absence of a good many other ted offences against the local feudal sonally, I think it was "a plant" on familiar creatures from among those lord in mediaeval times were politely somebody's part, though the finders pictured in Stone Age caves is addi- but firmly persuaded to "walk the themselves doubtless acted in all

good faith We have no proof that Magdalenian "art for art's sake." No Stone Age climb, on a rough track terraced out man, the great race that produced best modern artist can do. There is artist made a picture of a snail, for half-way up the hill. I have never spirited cave artists, ever lived in instance. There was no need to "put seen butterflies teem as they do along England, though there is reason to a spell" on a snail before he could this rocky track, among the tufts of suspect that detachments of him may catch it. He could do with all the thyme. The place is alive with glint- have obtained a foothold in Dorset, Devon, or Cornwall in very late Maga fierce, tousle-head fellow wearing a vide, however, when it came to chas- clouded yellows, hosts of chalk hill dalenian times by when this "putting ing fleet wild horses, hence all these blues, small coppers, graylings, a spell" magic had been dropped. (By engravings of horses on the walls of brown arguses, and a big strong- the time West European man had Combarelles, and elsewhere. There winged fellow like a super-grayling, emerged from his late Magdalenian phase, through the Azilian phase, to the Neolithic, or late Stone, phase, he It is a hot climb, for the valley had stopped painting and engraving

Still ancient anthropology is one He had enough trouble without look- below narrows and ceases, merging of the sciences over which no one but a fool is didactic. New evidence. There are practically no pictures of bracken, flecked here and there with tending to shed light on the dim red dawn of man, keeps cropping up. now here, now there, now out yonder. It is quite within the bounds of posrock-backed woodland dell, may revellous links with our pre-Adamite

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