NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 6th General Meeting of the Society for 1986, will be held in

THE CONSERVATION CENTRE, 120 WAKEFIELD STREET ADELAIDE

on

MONDAY 25th August 1986 AT 8.00 PM.

AGENDA

1. Apologies:

2. Minutes of the previous General Meeting:
Minutes of the previous General Meeting, held in the
Conservation Centre on Monday 28th July 1986, to be
confirmed. A copy of these minutes is attached.

3. Papers and Journals:
Papers and journals from other societies and organisations,
since the last general meeting will be tabled at this
meeting.

4. Business:

5. Speaker:
Dr. Robert Crotty M.A.,PhD. - Lecturer, Salisbury
Campus S.A.C.A.E. will address the Society. the
subject of his address will be: -
"Jericho - Oldest known City in the World."

6. Supper will be served at the close of the meeting.

R.Allison
Hon. Sec.
120 Wakefield St.
ADELAIDE SA 5000

The 5th General Meeting for 1986 was held in the Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield Street Adelaide, on Monday 28th July 1986 at 8.00 PM.

1. Apologies: M. Sando, Steven Hemmings, Caroline Boots

2. Minutes of the previous General Meeting:
Minutes of the previous General Meeting held in the Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield Street Adelaide, on Monday 23rd June 1986, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

3. Papers and Journals:
Papers and journals from other societies and organisations, received since the last general meeting were tabled at this meeting.

4. Business:
There was no business arising from this meeting.

5. Speaker:
Mr Neale Draper - Lecturer in Aboriginal Studies, S.A.C.A.E., Underdale Campus addressed the meeting.
The subject of his address was: -
"The Kartan - Mystery and Myth."

6. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm and supper was served.

R. Allison
Hon. Sec.
120 Wakefield St.
ADELAIDE SA 5000

About the following article:-

A handwritten article with traced illustrations was found in the Society's Archive Box. The only clues to its authorship were the initials R or K, I or L., W. and the provenance - National History (America), September 1937, p. 514. Attempts were made to identify the owner of the initials, without success. With the help of the SA Museum and the Macquarie University Library, the article was identified as "Our Most Ape-Like Relative" by Teilhard du Chardin, and it appeared in Natural History September 1937. Originally the handwritten paper was to be printed here, but the original paper contains photographs of the 'dig' for Peking Man, it was decided to print the original. The handwritten paper and tracings were probably made to satisfy the intense interest of the writer for the exciting discoveries south of Peking.
Our Most Ape-Like Relative

By TEILHARD DE CHARDIN

Because he is anatomically the lowest known man and because more abundant remains of him have been found than of any other primitive human type, the Peking Man, who lived some hundred thousand years ago in the vicinity of the modern city of Peking, is the most important discovery of its kind ever made.

The remnants are being found in what was a large cave at the time of its occupancy but which was gradually filled in by falling material from the walls and ceiling. Fragments representing approximately thirty individuals, including fairly well preserved skulls, have been unearthed in ten years of excavating. The work has been carried on under the joint efforts of the Geological Survey of China and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Sixty some miles south of Peking, this treasure-field was accidentally hit upon by stone-quarriers, and was first excavated by Dr. J. G. Anderson in 1921, for fossil animal remains. When, however, as a result of this early research, two human teeth were recovered by Dr. Zdansky, in association with numerous early Pleistocene animals, a thorough excavation of the site was planned by Dr. Davidson Black, Professor of Anatomy at the Rockefeller Medical College of Peking, and the work started in 1927. Fifty to 100 technicians and workmen have been continuously busy, quarrying, blasting, sifting, and labeling, during each eight-month season since the work began ten years ago.

Among the very primitive characteristics of the Peking Man are the absence of chin, the shape of the teeth, and the size of the orbital ridges. The brain-case is elongated, very low, and a transverse section of the skull is arched as in the apes, instead of being oval as in the Neanderthaloid or in modern man. By such characteristics Sinanthropus represents apparently the lowest anatomical stage so far discovered in human ancestry. And yet, he is unquestionably a man, as proved by the shape of his lower jaw, the capacity of his brain-case (ranging between 900 and 1200 c.c.), and his ability to make tools and fire, as attested by abundant charcoal and ashes.

The remains of Peking Man are found at any level through a depth of 90 meters, yet do not show any appreciable anatomical change. His stone implements, however, vary slightly but distinctly from the base to the top of the deposit. Curiously enough, the bulk of the human remains are teeth, jaws, and skulls, practically no traces of skeletons having been found, except a collarbone, a first neck vertebra and a fragmentary leg bone.

The reason for such an artificial selection of skulls lacks satisfactory explanation.

That Peking Man brought many animals to the cave for food, is shown by the enormous number of prehistoric bones, some of which were artificially broken. Most of the forms are extinct: two Rhinoceroses, a big Camel, a Water Buffalo, a twisted-horned Antelope, and a curious Fallow Deer with extremely flattened antlers and thickened skull and jaw. A huge extinct Hyena was probably a temporary dweller in the cave, likewise two types of Bear and, rarely, the Sabre-toothed Tiger. Other forms found are still living in China: the Sika Deer, the Roe Buck, the Big-horned Sheep. The age of this fauna, in agreement with several stratigraphic and physiographic evidences, points to early Pleistocene time, a matter of some hundred thousand years ago.

The recent discovery in November 1936 of three of the human skulls in two days strongly suggests that the excavation has now reached the most promising levels. Three more years of work will be necessary before exhausting the central part; and thanks to the kind and powerful support of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Geological Survey of China has decided to carry on to its end the thorough investigation. We have every reason for hoping that this will reveal much new knowledge concerning Peking Man's place in the history of man.
WHERE Peking Man was discovered: a limestone hill 30 miles south of Peiping, China, containing the filled-in cave which was inhabited by the lowest known man some hundred thousand years ago. White lines assist diggers in plotting the location of discoveries.

The eve of a great discovery: Diggers and technicians carrying their work toward the spot, several yards below the arrow, where in November 1936 three skulls of Peking Man were discovered. White lines mark level after twenty-five meters of deposits had been removed; twenty-five meters yet remain before reaching the bottom of the cave.
(Above) Criss-crossed with reference lines and ready for excavation: the eastern front wall of the dig, composed entirely of unworked sediments. The huge pocket of which these deposits are a part is approximately 100 meters long, 50 meters deep and 20 broad.

(Below) Peking Man's skull compared with modern skull from North China. Note that ancient brain-case is more elongated and very low, and that the eye-brow ridge is greatly extended. These features and others show Sinanthropus perhaps a closer relative to the ape than any other known man.
Diagrammatic view of bone-yielding layers in opposite photograph. The three solid bands indicate successive deposits, rich in valuable remains, laid down while the cave was inhabited by man or animals. The coarser layers between them are an accumulation of collapsed blocks.

The chimpanzee and other apes, instead of oval as in the Peking Man's skull in transverse section is arched, as in Neanderthal and modern man.

Above the eye sockets massive ridges protrude from the forehead of the Peking Man as in the case of the chimpanzee and Neanderthal Man.