

b38 Did Paleoamericans arrive by sea? < Kennewick Man >

On several occasions between 1695 and 1728, residents of the Orkney Isles off northern Scotland were startled to see Inuits paddling kayaks off their coasts. Once, a kayaker came as far south as the River Don near Aberdeen. These hunters [during the Little Ice Age] had been driven south by encroaching Arctic ice.
—Singer & Avery.²

Sweetpotatoes of lowland Mesoamerican origin (*see Scholium f36.1*, page 392) in addition to yams are noted to have been a staple in the diet of Easter Island Polynesians from before the first European sailors discovered their ecologically ravaged (detreed and so boatless)³ island inhabited by, in Captain James Cook's 1774 reflections, "small, lean, timid and miserable" survivors.⁴ In happier times of their ancestors Pacific diaspora, some traveling east reached South America—hard to miss but not evidenced⁵ by *Gallus gallus* chickens (the Spanish introduced them)⁶—and had departed with sweetpotatoes, some to make chance landfall (ca. AD 400) on this remote speck of an island. Native American males have on their Y-chromosome the nucleotide M242 present in some people living in Central Asia. This puts an upper limit on the time of their passage to America. "We can definitely rule out a date prior to 20,000 years ago," says Spencer Wells.⁷ Resemblance of Native Americans to Paleoamericans, as studied by Gentry Steele & Joseph Powell and by Richard Jantz & Douglas Owsley, is just not there. We were impressed with how different the older skulls are from any of the modern-day groups, says Owsley who speaks with the authority of 20 years compiling a database of craniometric profiles of Great Plains Native American tribes and comparing 90 measurements per skull with like in Paleoamerican skulls.⁸ The broad faces and big, prominent, cheekbones of Native Americans and northeastern Asians, are absent in Paleoamericans, except for Wizards Beach Man, whose 9,200-year-old remains were found in Nevada, and Buhl Woman, a 10,800-year-old Idaho skeleton (reburied in 1992). Different though, in the Baja California Peninsula, Mexico, one Native American group shows continuity of Paleoamerican's southern-Asian skull morphology. Rolando González-José in 2003 suggests that isolation by Middle Holocene climatic changes restricted gene flow to Native Americans via Amerindians from Paleoamericans now extinct.⁹

A "melting pot hypothesis" is that long before the arrival of Columbus there had already been in America a blending in of humans with distinctively "Caucasoid" long heads and narrow faces. There is Kennewick Man. His skeleton appeared in an eroded bank of the Columbia River, Washington. Initially, by his facial features, he was identified as a nineteenth-century European trapper. Then radiocarbon dating placed his bones (held in the Burke Museum, Seattle, Washington) at 9400 years old (and sensibly beyond any tribal claim to them by Native Americans, a US appeals court ruled in 2004)¹⁰ and a CT scan revealed a stone-age spear point imbedded in his hip.¹¹

Before 13,500 years ago, the Canadian northwest land corridor was still choked with glaciers, and ice covered most of Beringia. Possibly, Paleoamericans arrived, not by land but by sea, traveling in skin-covered boats along Ice Age coasts in a wide arc from Fiji, along a coastal Beringian corridor that had opened by 15,000 thousand years ago, to Tierra del Fuego (**Footnote b38.1**). Certainly, boating people left stone tools dating 11-12,000 years old at three sites on the Channel Islands, southern California.¹² Recently, 14 human fossil feces, dated 14,300 years old, have been unearthed in Paisley Caves, southern Oregon.¹³ Some immigrants could also have arrived from western Europe: For this, serendipitous support is in Dennis Stanford search beginning 1976 for Clovis spear points precursors. Of these, he found none in Canada, Alaska, or Siberia (his initially hypothesized likely places): "I came to the conclusion that Clovis [that vanished soon after the start of the Younger Dryas] is a new-world [East Coast] invention". In the southeastern United States, where Clovis had flourished during the late Allerød interstadial,¹⁴ some unusual spear points have been unearthed 50 miles south of Richmond, Virginia. These lack the classic Clovis fluting and date 15,000 years old. If that date is true, these could be Clovis precursors. But most remarkable of these, a pre-Clovis point (from Cactus Hill site)¹⁵ best resembles Old World Solutrean industry spear points from Spain crafted 16,500- 24,000 years ago. Did some Paleoamericans settle from Europe across the Atlantic? ¹⁶