

A&M Receives Valuable Fossil Slides

The A&M Anthropology/Palynology Laboratory has been given the complete collection of coprolitic reference materials owned by the late Dr. Eric O. Callen of McGill University in Canada.

Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant Jr. of the Sociology and Anthropology Department said the Callen collection includes several thousand microscope slides, an assortment of prehistoric human coprolites ranging in age from 1,000 to 125,000 years and related reference material.

Bryant said the Callen collection is the "finest of its type in North America and probably in the world."

The coprolitic field involves analysis of fossil excrement samples of feces, noted the TAMU professor who has been conducting such research for the past five years.

"In recent years the recovery and analysis of fossil human feces from archeological sites has been encouraged by archeologists because of the wealth of data coprolites can provide," Dr. Bryant noted.

"When properly and thoroughly analyzed," he continued, "human coprolites can yield important data about health, economy and diet of prehistoric man, as well as provide information concerning patterns of site occupancy and the conditions of the paleoenvironment."

Dr. Callen, who died in 1970, compiled the collection over a 15-year period while on the faculty of McDonald College, part of McGill University.

In addition to being the world's leading authority in the field of coprolitic research, Dr. Callen was widely known as a plant pathologist.

His widow and McDonald College jointly gave the collection to TAMU because of Dr. Bryant's specialization in coprolitic research.

"It was Dr. Callen's wish that this collection of his work be kept together for research and reference purposes," Bryant pointed out. "We have complied with his wish and will offer the use of the collection free of charge to any serious student or researcher."

Dr. Bryant said a doctoral student at Carleton University in Ottawa has already inquired about coming to TAMU this summer to use the collection in conjunction with his studies.

American POWs May Remain A Few Months

NEW YORK (AP)—Provisions of the Vietnam draft peace agreement, reported by South Vietnamese sources, would require Hanoi to release some American prisoners the day after signing and the rest "within the first few months," CBS News said Tuesday.

An earlier agreement draft by Dr. Henry A. Kissinger and North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho in October is said to have required the repatriation of all prisoners of war within 60 days after signing.

The new draft "doesn't give a specific time limit, perhaps because some of the prisoners are in camps spread around North Vietnam, which simply may take them a while to get them to Hanoi so that they can be evacuated," CBS newsman Don Webster said from Saigon.

"At any rate, the draft agreement is quite clear that the prisoners will be coming home," he said.

CBS pointed out that the information it has on the agreement "has not been confirmed, it has not been elaborated by any official source."

The network said its bureau in Saigon gained access to portions of the draft and that its information "came from usually reliable sources inside South Vietnam's presidential palace."

Webster said the draft possibly will be released "within the next week or so, if in fact 'peace is at hand.'" But he indicated that the South Vietnamese still hope for changes in some parts of the document.

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