

Skull found in shop may be 1 million years old

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NEW YORK (AP) -- A fossil skull, presumably of a Homo erectus believed up to 1 million years old, has been found in a Manhattan shop, The New York Times reported Tuesday.

Paleoanthropologists have concluded that the skull is a genuine specimen from Indonesia that could be critical in determining the place on the human family tree of the East Asia branch of Homo erectus.



Such information could be central to the understanding of where and how modern humans, Homo sapiens, evolved, the newspaper said.

The skull was delivered in March to the Columbus Avenue shop Maxilla and Mandible Ltd., whose window display boasts bleached bones, mounted insects and animal sculptures, among other natural-history curiosities.

The shop's owner, Henry Galiano, said the fossil was dropped off by a mysterious man who claimed to represent the estate of a collector. Galiano, in cleaning the skull, realized it could be ancient and valuable.

The dark gray skull, anywhere from 100,000 to 1 million years old, probably belonged to a male in his 20s, scientists said. The individual's brain was about half the size of that of Homo sapiens but within the range for Homo erectus. He had a humanlike high forehead.

Casts of the inside of the skull indicate differential development of the two sides of the brain and swelling in a region of the brain known as the Broca cap, which suggest the Homo erectus was developing the potential for language and speech, scientists said.

"It's a very interesting specimen because it's not like any other Homo erectus we know from Indonesia or anywhere else," said Dr. Eric Delson, a City University of New York paleoanthropologist.

Scientists from Indonesia and the United States who studied the skull -- an almost complete cranium but missing the upper and lower jaws -- are preparing to publish their findings.

The shop's owner has presented the skull, which was traced to the Poloyo village on the Solo River in Central Java, to an Indonesian paleoanthropologist for its return home. Experts estimate it might have commanded \$500,000 on the open market.

genuine	being what it appears to be; real; not false	If it is a genuine Michelangelo drawing, it will sell for millions.	pravo/pravilno
specimen	something shown or examined as an example; a typical example	He has a collection of rare insect specimens.	tipičen primer
branch	a part of something larger	I used to work in the local branch of a large bank.	del nečesa
boast	to have or possess (something to be proud of)	Ireland boasts beautiful beaches, great restaurants and friendly locals.	lastiti si
mount	to increase, rise, or get bigger	The children's excitement is mounting (= increasing) as Christmas gets nearer.	povečati
estate	a large area of land in the country which is owned by a family or an organization and is often farmed	the owner of estates in Scotland	lastnina
cast	to make (an object) by pouring liquid, such as melted metal, into a shaped container to become hard	A statue of the general is presently being cast.	oblaka
cranium	(in animals and humans) the hard bone case which gives the head its structure and protects the brain; skull		lobanja

SKULL FOUND IN SHOP

Summary

The story is about the skull, which is supposed to be around 1 million years old. It has been found in Manhattan store by its owner. Paleoanthropologists said it is from Indonesia. The skull was brought into the store by a mysterious man who claimed to represent the estate of a collector. Galiano, in cleaning the skull, realized it could be ancient and valuable. The skull probably belonged to a man in age of 20 years old. Casts of the inside of the skull indicate differential development of the two sides of the brain and swelling in a region of the brain. The skull is worth around half a million dollars on the open market.