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NOTES D'ARCHÉOLOGIE PRÉHISTORIQUE—NOS ANCÊTRES PRIMITIFS

PAR A. DOIGNEAU

A REVIEW

BY

GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY

Reprinted from the AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST (N. S.), Vol. 7, No. 1,
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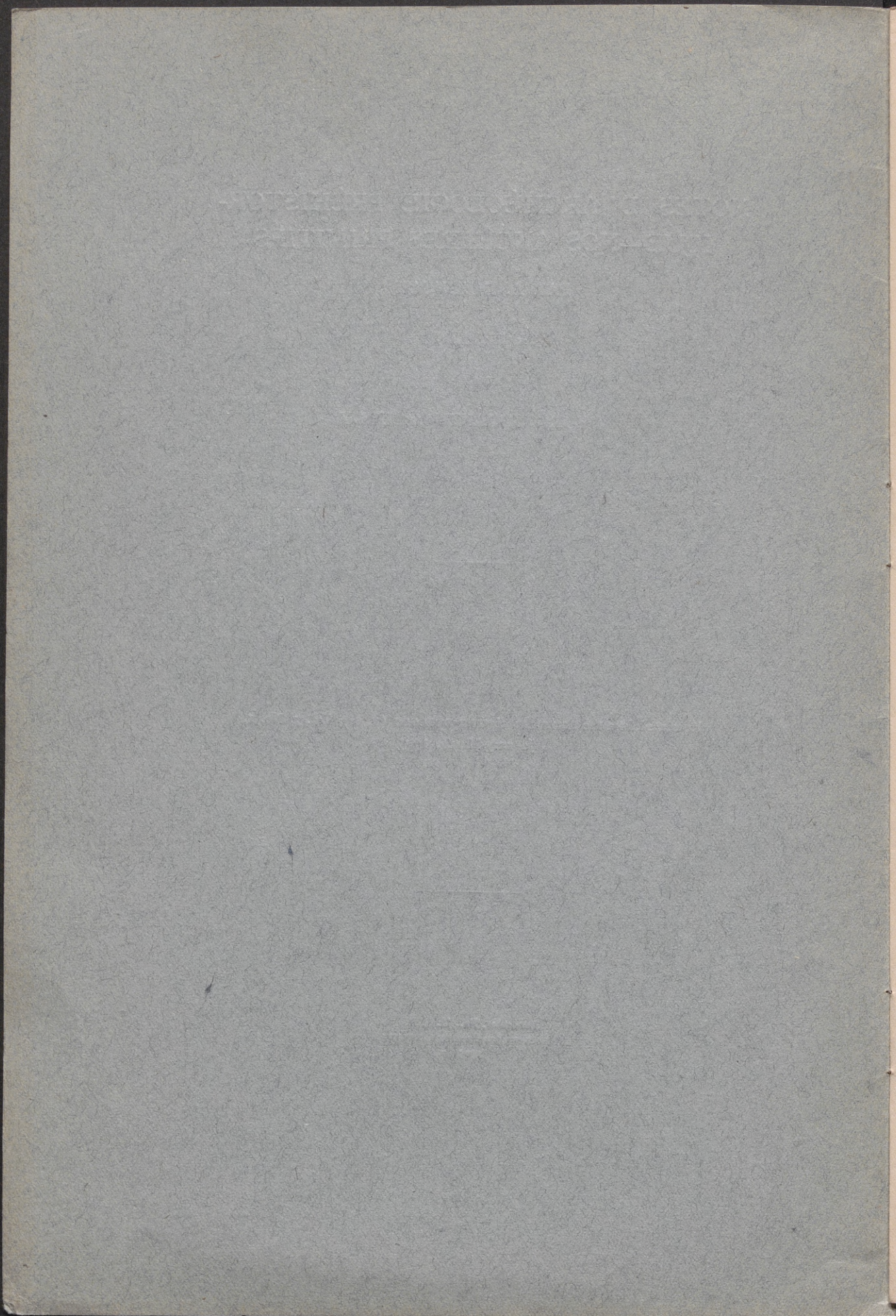
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Notes d'archéologie préhistorique. — Nos ancêtres primitifs. Par A. DOIGNEAU. Preface par le Docteur Capitan. Paris: Librairie C. Clavreuil. 1905. 8°, 202 pages, 109 figures.

This volume is very well characterized by the author in the dedication as "a work of popularization"; and again by Dr Capitan in the preface as "a concise résumé of the history of our primitive ancestors." Turning to the table of contents, the history is found to be limited to the chapters dealing with the ages of stone. Such a work marks a timely step in the right direction. The domain of prehistoric archeology is a broad one. The period of pioneering has therefore of necessity been long. But there comes a time in the development of a science, as in that of a country, when the trail should give place to the highway. There are those who will always prefer the trail. Let them still wander to their heart's content through the wilderness. Their course leads by way of the numerous

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publications of museums, societies, academies, etc.; of scientific journals, government reports, books of travel, as well as works on special topics. But that way is too laborious for the great majority whose means of communication should be as easy and direct as possible, and who may choose to be personally conducted. In that case, Doigneau is recommended as their guide. He knows the field and has supplemented his text by copious references to the original sources of information.

In archeology it is necessary to know the when as well as the what and the where; hence the importance of chronological classification. In prehistoric archeology the chronology is of necessity relative rather than absolute. The author offers nothing new in the way of classification, his outline agreeing practically with that made by Gabriel de Mortillet¹ more than ten years ago. The stone age is divided into three periods: (1) eolithic, (2) paleolithic, and (3) neolithic. It is well known that to Sir John Lubbock (Lord Avebury) belongs the credit of first employing the terms paleolithic and neolithic. As to the name eolithic, the author leaves one to infer (p. 36) that it was introduced by G. de Mortillet. Dr A. Rutot² of Brussels also believes him to have been the first to propose that name to designate a primitive industry antedating the paleolithic. In the opinion of the reviewer, and as stated by him in a paper written last year but not yet published, the priority belongs to Mr J. Allen Brown, late fellow of the Geological Society of London, who made use of the term "eolithic" in a communication³ read before the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland on March 8th, 1892, whereas de Mortillet submitted his "Classification palethnologique" to the Paris Society of Anthropology on December 6, 1894.⁴

The eolithic period of Doigneau, like that of de Mortillet, is placed wholly in the Tertiary. The paleolithic is referred to the early Quaternary and the neolithic to the Recent. On the other hand Rutot has recently shown that the eolithic is by no means confined to the Tertiary—Reutelian, Reutelo-Mesvinian, and Mesvinian industries all occurring in the lower Quaternary. In regard to the subdivisions of the paleolithic period, the author does not seem to share the opinion of Professor Hoernes⁵ and others that the Chellean, Acheulian, and

¹ Classification palethnologique, *Bull. Soc. d'anthr. de Paris*, 1894, p. 616.

² Le préhistorique dans l'Europe centrale, etc. *Extrait du C.-R. du Congr. d'arch. et d'hist.*, Dinant, 1903, p. 244.

³ On the continuity of the paleolithic and neolithic periods. *J. A. I.*, XXII, 93.

⁴ Page 616 of the Bulletins.

⁵ Moriz Hoernes, *Der diluviale Mensch in Europe*, Braunschweig, Friedrich Vieweg und Sohn, 1903 (reviewed in *American Anthropologist*, N. S., 1903, V, 695).

Mousterian epochs are but phases of one and the same industry. Yet he goes so far as to admit that: the Acheulian cannot be considered as constituting a veritable epoch. It is at the same time the end of the Chellean and the beginning of the Mousterian, a passage from the one to the other, and marking a relatively short period of time. The Solutrean is also looked upon as a transition epoch. A good deal of space is given to the closing epoch of the paleolithic period which was marked by a real passion for art. Indeed the Magdalenian epoch may well be called the Phidian age of prehistoric times. Records have been preserved of each successive step from sculpture in the round, through high-relief and low-relief to delicate engraving. Color was sometimes combined with engraving, as in the remarkable frescoes which adorn the cavern walls of Fond-de-Gaume, near Les Eyzies. Curious markings suggestive of a halter on some of the figures of horses from the cavern walls of Combarelles, a so near Les Eyzies, have led to the question of domestication of animals during the paleolithic period. Doigneau does not believe the evidence sufficient to demonstrate that any animal had become domesticated previous to the arrival of the neolithic peoples in Europe.

The closing chapter deals with the neolithic period; the hiatus, supposed by some to separate it from the paleolithic, the author believes to be non-existent. In support of this view he marshals the evidence furnished by the researches of de Mortillet at la Tourasse (Haute-Garonne), Piette at Mas d'Azil (Ariège), Salmon and Capitan at Campigny (Seine-Inférieure), and d'Ault du Mesnil in the valley of the Somme. The Tourassian is a transition epoch. The Campignian epoch is characterized by the survival of a few ancient types, such as scrapers, double scrapers, and graters, and the appearance of two new types, the paring-knife and the pick. Nowhere was there the slightest evidence of an attempt at polishing the stone implements. This was reserved for the following epoch, the so-called Robenhausian.

The story as told by Doigneau is attractive throughout. The excellent figures are, happily, almost exclusively of specimens in his own collection. The references, though numerous, are wholly confined to French authors or French translations of foreign authors, with the exception of citations from a few classical writers — a limitation perhaps more apparent than real when the scope of the work is taken into consideration. A few typographical errors are noted, among which may possibly be classed the statement that *Pithecanthropus* was found *near* Java.

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