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VI. Book reviews

Wiktor Stoczkowski, *Explaining Human Origins: Myth, Imagination, and Conjecture*. Translated by Mary Turton. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. Hardback ISBN 0-521-65134-4, paper ISBN 0-521-63730-X. French original, *Anthopologie naïve, anthropologie savante*, Paris: CNRS, 1994.

Reviewed by *Alice B. Kehoe*

Stoczkowski analyses two dozen texts – books and major articles – propounding hypotheses on hominisation, i.e., how and why hominid lineages become modern humans. He makes it abundantly clear that archaeologists naively write variations on the scenario already assumed by Classical Greek authors, apparently failing to notice that empirical data don't support their stories. Equally interesting, Stoczkowski points up a general neglect of Darwinian evolutionary principles, with the concomitant use of Lamarckian notions of inheritance of acquired characters. Stoczkowski's tables of earliest attestation of ideas of causation (page 124) and of characteristics alleged to indicate early humans (pages 125–126), are sobering demonstrations of the power of myths, how even brilliant thinkers intending to be iconoclastic have taken for granted the Western narrative of Man the Culture Hero arising (literally) from his stooped ape forebears, spearing Ferocious Beasts to feed the Little Woman by the hearth, and gradually expanding his brain to generate speech and art.

This book is not a documentary history, rather it is an extended essay, unpretentious in style,

in history/philosophy of science. For English-language readers, its French slant, citing more French than British philosophers, adds to its value. It is thought-provoking and salubrious, and well worth a read.

I did find one slip: on page 165 Stoczkowski cites in a footnote, 'McGrew 1986' for a reference on Chipewyan. The only McGrew in the bibliography, W.C., is not listed as having a 1986 publication, and what is listed is his work on chimpanzees. Neither Henry Sharp nor Brumbach and Jarenpa, the ethnographers one would expect to have been referenced for Chipewyan, are listed, and Stoczkowski's page 164 claim that Chipewyan exemplify a sexual division of labor that lessens the productive potential of one gender, is not supported by Brumbach and Jarvenpa's observations and analysis of the gendered division of tasks among Chipewyans.

Heinz Grünert, *Gustaf Kossinna (1858–1931). Vom Germanisten zum Prähistoriker. Ein Wissenschaftler im Kaiserreich und in der Weimarer Republik. Vorgeschichtliche Forschungen, Vol. 22.* Rahden/Westf.: Marie Leidorf, 2002. 405 pp. ISBN 3-89646-504-X. 71.50 EURO.

Reviewed by *Hubert Fehr*

For several decades Gustaf Kossinna has presumably been the most disputed figure in the history of Central European archaeology. Within the last 50 years a considerable number of essays has been dedicated to him and his work (Eggers 1959, pp. 199–254; Klejn 1974; Smolla 1980; Veit 1984; Smolla 1985; Adler 1987; Trigger 1989, pp. 163–167; Veit 2002), and he is still one of the few German prehistorians regularly mentioned in international biographical dictionaries on the history of archaeology (e.g. Klejn 1999; Gran-Aymerich 2001, pp. 380f.). In most cases, however, these works only focus on certain aspects of his life and work. Just a few years ago Ulrich Veit pointed out again the lack of biographical information on Kossinna and stated that, although there is still a great deal of interest into his methodological principles, nobody seems to be interested in Kossinna himself (Veit 2002, p. 42). The only monograph on Kossinna hitherto published was a genuine example of National Socialist hagiography and thus of limited value (Stampfuß 1935), while the recent works of the Japanese Kossinna-specialist Tatsuo Hoshino (Fujisawa) are unfortunately not accessible in European languages. Exactly one hundred years after Kossinna obtained the first chair for Prehistoric archaeology in Germany, Heinz Grünert, emeritus professor at Berlins Humbolt-University, now published a comprehensive and fundamental biography. Unlike previous works it is based on a variety of archival records, and not mainly on Kossinna's publications. In nine years of research, Grünert has collected about 16 meters of material from 66 different archives (p. 14), giving detailed primary information on all important aspects of Kossinna's life. Apart from the book, this material is another valuable outcome of Grünert's work: the copies of various records are now enriching Kossinna's bequest, which unfortunately had been scattered to several places after his death. The surviving parts have been united in the last years in the Archive of the Humboldt-University, where they are put at disposal for further research. According to Grünert, the principle aim of his study was to break the spell on Kossinna's selfportrayal and the myths created around him (p. 13). Without being able to demonstrate this here in detail, one has to say that Grünert surely managed to solve the task he tackled. The author traces Kossinna's life in 29 roughly chronological chapters, using the decisive points of Kossinna's biography as starting points for digressions on more general topics.

Additional chapters are dedicated to misuse and reappraisal of Kossinna scientific heritage