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AZILIAN BOAR-HUNT SHOWN IN HALL OF STONE AGE

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The sixth* group in the Hall of the Stone Age of the Old World (Hall C) is a dramatic scene in which dogs are assisting two Azilian men to hunt wild boar. The group represents the beginning of the domestication of animals, which was a great advance toward civilization.

The transition or mesolithic period which separated the old and new stone ages began in western Europe some 12,000 years ago.

The climate was similar to that of the present day. The arctic flora was replaced by the birch and the pine, and the barren tundras and wind-swept steppes were superseded by forest. A modern fauna, characterized by the red deer, had taken the place of the mammoth and reindeer.

The last of the hunting races roamed Europe at that time. These people have been called Azilians after the type station located in the cavern of Mas d'Azil, about forty miles from Toulouse, France. The most remarkable of Azilian burials was found at Ofnet in southern Germany, where twenty-seven human skulls, buried in red ochre, were discovered in one grave.

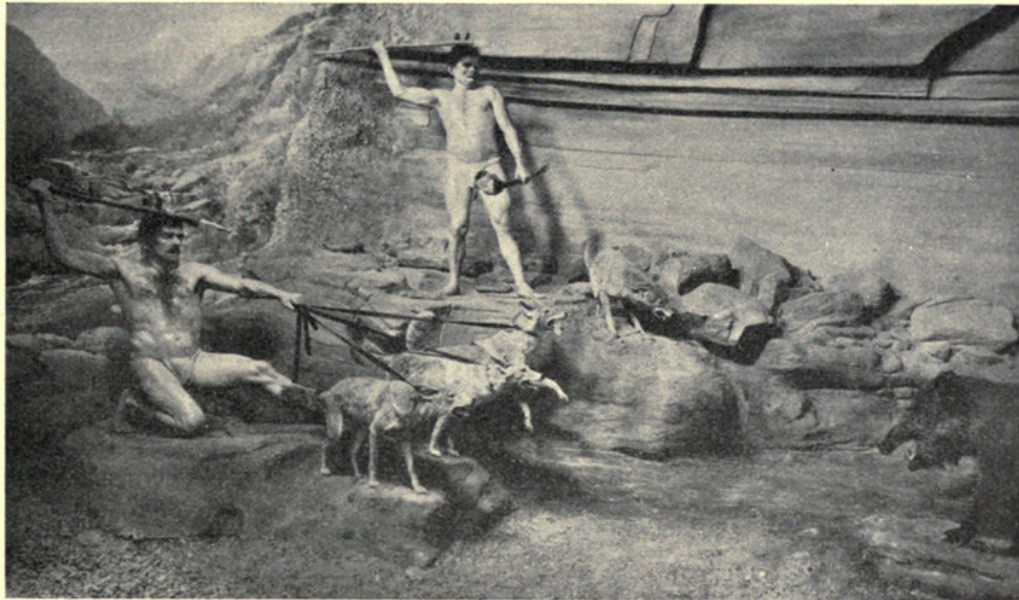
The skulls, with a few neck vertebrae, were orientated toward the setting sun. Evidently the heads were buried, after decapitation, with necklaces of perforated shells and deer's teeth. One of the vertebrae reveals the marks left by the flint knife which was used for severing the head from the body. Among the skulls there were examples of both round- and long-headed types, indicating that two races inhabited Europe in Azilian times.

The art of the Azilians was inferior to that of their predecessors, the Cro-Magnons, whose beautiful realistic work they replaced by conventional designs. No Azilian engravings or sculptures have been preserved. Painting was limited to simple designs in red ochre on flat pebbles from streams. Harpoons of a flat, broad type with one or two rows of barbs were developed for fishing. Poorly made flint and bone tools were also used. Cattle, horses and pigs, although still untamed, formed the chief food supply.

*The first five groups, Chellean, Neanderthal, Aurignacian, Solutrean and Magdalenian, have been pictured and described in the July, August, September, October and November numbers of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

It was during the Azilian period that the dog was domesticated. The assistance of this companion in the hunt may well have compensated for the inferior quality of the hunting weapons, which consisted of long, wooden spears with flint blades attached.

In the Museum group a wild boar hunt is taking place at the entrance to Mas d'Azil. The scene shows two Azilian hunters armed with wooden spears with flint points, at close quarters with a wild boar defending its mate and two young ones. One of the hunters holds three dogs, who strain at the rawhide leashes. One young dog is lying



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Early Hunters Using Dogs to Attack Wild Boar

Group in Hall of the Stone Age of the Old World showing men of the Azilian period, about 12,000 years ago. The exhibit illustrates the first use of domesticated animals.

dead on the bank—the result of coming into range of the sharp tusks of the male boar, which is at bay.

The background and roof of the cave, as well as the figures of the hunters, were modeled by Frederick Blaschke, who visited Mas d'Azil to make the necessary studies.

The painted section of the background is the work of Staff Artist Charles A. Corwin.

The group was planned and directed by the writer with the generous assistance of the Abbé Henri Breuil.

CHANGES IN VISITING HOURS

Attention is called to certain changes in the schedule of visiting hours to be observed at Field Museum in the future. Henceforth the hours during the various seasons will be as follows: November, December, January, February, March—9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; April, September, October—9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; May, June, July, August—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

GIVE A MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT

To those Members of Field Museum who are seeking for some friend, or friends, a Christmas gift that is especially distinctive, and who would at the same time appreciate an opportunity to simplify their Christmas shopping problems, the Museum extends its cooperation as in the past several years. A convenient plan for presenting Field Museum memberships as Christmas gifts is offered.

This plan reduces the task of selecting gifts to the easiest possible proportions, and eliminates the time and effort devoted to shopping and to preparing and sending packages. To give a Museum membership all you have to do is send to the Museum the name and address of the proposed Member, your own name and address, and the check for the membership fee. All other details will be taken care of for you. An attractive Christmas card will be sent by the Museum to any friends whom you may thus favor, notifying them that, through your generosity, they have become Members of this institution, and informing them as to what their membership privileges are. A wide choice is offered in the cost of gift memberships, beginning with the \$10 annual membership.

To assure delivery of notification cards to the recipients of your gifts by Christmas Day, it is advisable to send in applications before December 18.

When you present a Museum membership you indicate to the recipient a high estimate of his intellectual qualities—a belief that he is the type of person to whom association with a cultural institution would appeal. It is a gift that will not be forgotten—instead, it will remind the recipient of you many times a year, for he will receive monthly his copy of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS, and will be able to obtain reserved seats for the Museum lectures.

Among other privileges in which he will participate as a Member may be mentioned free admission to the Museum for himself, his family and house guests at all times; the right to have out-of-town friends admitted free of charge on presentation of the Member's personal card; the opportunity to obtain certain Museum publications on request; and, when traveling, the extension of the courtesies of every museum of note in the United States and Canada.



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