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EUROPEAN CAVE BEAR, FOE OF PREHISTORIC MAN, SHOWN IN MURAL PAINTING

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The great fossil cave bear of Europe, *Ursus spelaeus*, was the largest of all known bears, and also the largest true carnivore, either recent or fossil, so far as is now known. The skulls of some specimens measure twenty inches in length. The animal in life stood more than four feet in height at the shoulder, and if as heavy in proportion to the size of its skeleton as the great Alaskan bear of modern times, it must have weighed more than two thousand pounds.

The cave bears lived in Europe as long as fifty thousand years ago during the glacial period of Pleistocene time, and died out near the close of that period. They are known from fossil remains found in "bone caves" scattered through England, France, Germany, Austria and other parts of Europe. The large skeleton exhibited in Ernest R. Graham Hall (Hall 38) was found in a cave near Trieste, Italy. The accompanying illustration is from a photograph of a mural panel by Charles R. Knight exhibited in the same hall.

The animal is known as the "cave bear" because its remains are found most abundantly in caves and in rock-fissures.

More than one hundred skeletons, in varying states of preservation, have been reported from the caverns of Europe. The presence of fossil skeletons in such places is due to

the habit of bears, as well as other predaceous animals, of resorting to caverns as dens. In such caverns the skeletons have been covered up along with the bones of various other animals by an accumulation of debris on the cave floor. They may be covered by sediment carried in by water or by earth falling from the walls; often the bones are embedded in cave formations of hard calcareous matter formed by

The remains of the cave bear are reported as intermingled with those of other animals. In their earlier appearance the cave bears are associated with animals of a warmer climate such as the lion, hyena, stag and others. In a later stage they are found with cold climate animals such as the reindeer and arctic fox. These conditions marked the change from the third warm, interglacial period to the final advance of glacial ice and cold.

Association of the cave bear with an extinct race of men is of highest interest. From a cavern in the Swiss lake region have been reported a large number of bones of the cave bear. Associated with them were found more than one hundred implements of a type known as the work of the Mousterian race, or Neanderthal man. Similar evidence is abundant toward the close of the Ice Age. Many caverns in France bear engravings of the cave bear made by primitive man, and in one instance a clay model of the animal was left as an eloquent tribute to his memory.

Before the close of the ice age in Europe, some twenty thousand years ago, the great cave bears had disappeared entirely. Their remains are frequently brought to light and in such numbers as to indicate that this huge beast was the

most common flesh-eater in western Europe in later Pleistocene time, and doubtless one of the most formidable enemies of primitive man.



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Huge Bears of the Ice Age

Primitive man in Europe apparently often had to combat these great beasts for possession of desirable caves. These animals are the largest bears known to science, and lived about 20,000 to 50,000 years ago. The picture is from a mural in Ernest R. Graham Hall, by Mr. Charles R. Knight.

dripping water. In places the bones have been washed by streams into open fissures in rock formation and there covered and preserved.

transparency are like those of sea water in its deep blue phase, and it is from this characteristic that this variety of transparent precious beryl derives its name "aquamarine" meaning sea water. Aquamarines occur also in the color of green sea water, but the blue gems of this type are much rarer, and a blue one the size of this specimen is extremely unusual.

The gem came from Brazil, probably from the vicinity of Arassahuay in the state of Minas Geraes. Beryls of large size are obtained there by mining in the decomposed coarse granites of the region.

Higinbotham Hall, in which this specimen is displayed, contains a large and valuable

collection of gems and jewels of nearly every known variety from all over the world. This collection is one of the finest in existence.

Heredity Principles Illustrated

The principles of heredity as exemplified in plant life are illustrated in an exhibit in the Hall of Plant Life (Hall 29, Case 824). One part is devoted to explaining the color factor in the cultivation of sweet pea hybrids. The other illustrates a simple case of the Mendelian inheritance principles as revealed by inbreeding and inter-breeding of red and white four-o'clocks and their hybrid, the pink four-o'clock.

A 341-Carat Aquamarine

A beautiful gem of aquamarine, weighing 341½ carats, is exhibited in the collection of gems and jewels in H. N. Higinbotham Hall (Hall 31, Case 11). It is believed to be the largest perfect gem of its kind in the United States, and one of the largest in the world. It was presented to the Museum by the late Richard T. Crane, Jr., former Trustee.

The Crane aquamarine is a flawless stone of high value. It has been skillfully cut in the form of an oval brilliant, with scores of facets. Its dimensions are: length, two and one-half inches; width, one and one-half inches; and depth, one inch. Its color and



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