

(Baales et al. 2017). The truth is that the honey bee migrated to the south of Europe from North Africa as a result of the gradual warming of the climate at the end of the ice age, from where it gradually spread to areas north of the Alps.

The asymmetrical but real head of a woman carved from mammoth ivory from Dolní Věstonice (Ivory carving of a human head from Dolní Věstonice) was never associated with the middle individual in the triple grave (page 42) as in his depiction, but with the burial of a "shaman woman". The existence of an Epigravettian "object" rather than a Gravettian "object" at Moravany-Dlhá (rather than Žakovská, as the authors claim) was convincingly refuted as an arranged period scene (page 62). The reader may be perplexed by the locations mentioned, some of which are in Ukraine and some of which are in Russia (p. 66). The authors dismiss mammoth hunting as a "myth" (page 134), despite citing direct evidence of mammoth hunting. They argue for a preference for other, more suitable fauna, but do not explain why isotopic analyses show humans ate mammoth meat. The authors' assertion that "moving any portions of mammoths around would have required a tremendous amount of labour and effort" seems to be at odds with what we know about how large and heavy volumes of game are processed and moved from ethnological parallels.

On page 94 there is an interesting claim that: "...the most widely accepted is that [numerous perforated antler batons] they were used to straighten the shafts of spears - but it seems quite clear that many of them were involved in the making of horse-hair rope by twisting single strands together." The second part of the statement, I think—and many of my colleagues will concur—is a little bit exaggerated.

Experimenters would argue that the so-called bâton perforé were almost certainly used to straighten the spikes, because the spikes like to bend due to air humidity and it is simply impossible to shoot in an arc, while the holes in the bâtons are so wide that it is unclear how they could be used for braiding a rope.

It is the practice of not citing citations directly in the text, but only in a summary at the very end of the book, which makes it

difficult for the reader to distinguish between the authors' original ideas and previously acquired information. Although both authors explain this in the introductory chapter, I find it unfortunate that only a small number of sources, some of which are inaccurate, are cited. I am afraid that thanks to this, in some cases, even if unintentionally, new myths will arise. Some published claims encourage it directly.

Nonetheless, even in the context of recent publications, the book can be regarded as exceptionally well-written and exhaustive. It is highly recommended not only to archaeology and anthropology students seeking an overview of the Upper Palaeolithic, but to the general public as well.

References:

- BAALES, M., BIRKER, S., MUCHA, F. 2017: Hafting with beeswax in the Final Palaeolithic: a barbed point from Bergkamen. *Antiquity* 91, 359: 1155–1170. <https://doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2017.142>
- LIEBERMAN, D. E. 2013: *The Story of the Human Body: Evolution, Health, and Disease*. Pantheon Books.
- BEA MARTÍNEZ, B., DOMINGO SANZ, I., ANGÁS PAJAS, J. 2021: El abrigo de Barranco Gómez (Castellote, Teruel), un nuevo conjunto con arte levantino en el núcleo rupestre del Guadalope. *Trabajos de prehistoria* 78, 1: 164–178. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3989/tp.2021.12271>
- POWER, R. C., SALAZAR-GARCÍA D. C., STRAUS L. G., GONZÁLEZ MORALES M. R., HENRY, A. G. 2015: Microremains from El Mirón Cave human dental calculus suggest a mixed plant–animal subsistence economy during the Magdalenian in Northern Iberia. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 60: 39–46.

Zdeňka Nerudová

Peter Frost: European Hair, Eye, and Skin Color: Solving the Puzzle. Washington: Academica Press, 2022. 169 Pp. ISBN 9781680538724 (hardcover), 9781680538731 (e-book).

"European Hair, Eye, and Skin Colour: Solving the Puzzle" is written by Dr Peter Frost, a Canadian anthropologist. According to Dr Frost's extensive publication record, the study of human pigmentation has long been the focus of his research. The book has 163 pages and is divided into 13 unnumbered chapters. Title of the book and summary promise a comprehensive overview of current knowledge about the biological nature of human skin, hair, and iris pigmentation, supplemented by the theory of sexual selection associated with various and rare phenotypes. Pigmentation research and subsequent phenotyping is a hot topic not only for anthropologists, but it also has important practical implications for forensic science. Thanks to knowledge of biological skin, hair, and eye colour determination, it is possible to determine these characteristics from DNA and use the results in forensic investigations.

In the "Introduction", the author describes the genetic basis of pigmentation and outlines the objectives of the subsequent text. The majority of "European Hair, Eye, and Skin Colour: Solving the Puzzle" is devoted to the neglected and under-researched issue of pigmentation and sexual selection, as another evolutionary tool for the application of new alleles and, consequently, different phenotypes. Even if the reader is not an expert in the natural sciences, a concise summary of the scientific methods used to investigate the attractiveness and variability of pigmentation would be helpful. The evidence presented for the preference of certain phenotypes is primarily based on ethnographic and historical examples rather than scientific experiments.

The book, "European Hair, Eye, and Skin Colour: Solving the Puzzle" contains a respectable number of references from the fields of biological and sociocultural anthropology. Unfortunately, the most up-to-date literature was not always chosen. The author frequently refers to sources from the middle of the twentieth century and does not supplement knowledge with

more recent research. Furthermore, the results of the reported studies are interpreted in a manner that is both simplified and uncritical. As a result, information may be misleading or biased, with sexist or racist undertones. Topics such as sex, gender, attractiveness, race and skin colour can be fraught with cultural and personal subjectivity, as well as social controversy. All published conclusions must be supported by appropriately chosen research methods, sufficient data, and appropriate statistical methods.

Many chapters, even defined scientific questions, are completely outside the scope of the book. A thorough examination of the evolutionary significance and attractiveness of red hair is provided. From the scope of this chapter, it can be concluded that the topic is close to the author either personally or professionally. Disproportionality in topics is also evident in other parts of the book. The author focuses on the colour of the skin first, then hair, with less emphasis on the colour of the eyes. The final chapters are filled with redundant and unrelated information about albinism in Africa, the genetic basis of facial shape, and hair shape.

Kristýna Brzobohatá