

Analyzing the claims made by Joe Taylor and the Mt. Blanco Fossil Museum regarding the recovery of anomalous giant human remains dated between 1400 BCE and 1955 CE

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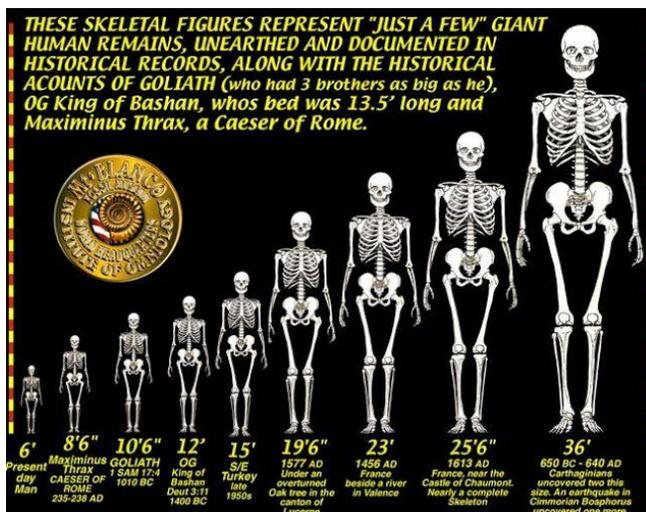
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Introduction

For many years, a poster (pictured on this page) has, in various forms appeared frequently on websites and within material that discuss a global conspiracy to hide an “ancient race of giants” from the public, presenting several gigantic skeletons that have been allegedly found all over the world, confirming the existence of such a race sometime in the recent past, with anomalies and



discoveries of such anomalies extending back between at least 1400 BCE and the mid-1950s CE. The truly discouraging aspect of the situation is that such claims are not only taken seriously by those who are making them, but that they are advocating that their followers accept the premise that belief in such cases is backed up by academic or archaeological evidence. This offering of justified rationalization is what requires the claim to be taken seriously by those in mainstream academia, and at least a peripheral response to be offered in the aiding of those who may be more skeptical

of the claims made by Joe Taylor and the Mt. Blanco Fossil Museum (hence, the preparation of this manuscript). The poster was made by Taylor, as one may notice, it bears the watermark of the “Omniological Society”, which is a society in name only, being completely defunct and, at the time of this writing, known by the public to have only two “members”. (1, see *Early Credentials: Certificate of Omniology*)

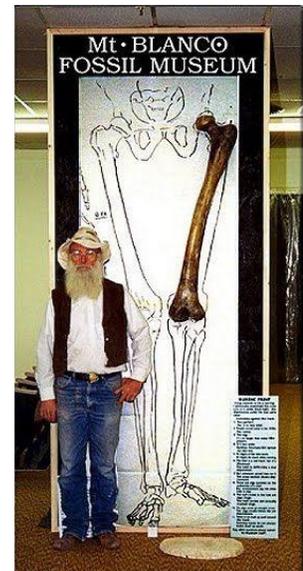
Initial Observations

The poster (pictured, pp.1) claims that the presented skeletons represent "... 'JUST A FEW' GIANT HUMAN REMAINS, UNEARTHED AND DOCUMENTED IN HISTORICAL RECORDS, ALONG WITH THE HISTORICAL ACOUNTS (sic.) OF GOLIATH (who had 3 brothers as big as he), OG King of Bashan, whos (sic.) bed was 13.5' long and Maximinus Thrax, a Caesar (sic.) of Rome." (Ibid) At the risk of sounding informal, the formatting and spelling errors noted here may serve to the reader as a sort of primer for what sort of claims we will be addressing as this analysis progresses.

The Poster's Figures and Contents

1. **Present day Man (6ft.)** Provided for scale.

2. **S/E Turkey late 1950s (15ft.)** The history of this skeletal claim is completely unreliable, as over the years Taylor has alternatively claimed that the skeleton was discovered in Turkey, Egypt, alluded to it having been discovered somewhere in Syria, was initially discovered in the 1960s, then sometime in the 1950s, etc. (2) (3) Additionally, the only data that Taylor has to back up his claim is an anonymous letter which he has read third-hand - a letter which not only makes a number of claims that stretch believability, (2) but also does not distinguish properly as to whether an individual 47" femur was discovered, or whether an entire human leg (i.e., femur, patella, and tibia/fibula) that totalled 47" overall was discovered. (2) Regardless, such speculation hardly matters, as the sculpted femur which Taylor displays in his museum (pictured right: replicas of Taylor's sculpture are also displayed in a number of other creation museums, sometimes seemingly presented as though such a specimen has actually been uncovered and confirmed to have been discovered, as is the case with the Abilene Discovery Center in Abilene, Texas) along with the giant that it allegedly supports yields no physical data to back it up: no giant femur was ever uncovered or undocumented, as Taylor himself readily admits to. (3) The changing story and lack of an actual femur lead to the natural conclusion that such a claim should not be taken seriously.



3. **Maximinus Thrax CAESER (sic.) OF ROME 235-238 AD (sic.) (8ft. 6in.)** Thrax's height is no mystery to scholars, nor does anyone believe him to have been a member of some gigantic race of men kept secret for ages. Many believe that, due to Thrax's being depicted with a very prominent brow, nose, and jaw, along with the existence of tales of his having been able to wear bracelets as rings on his enlarged phalanges, (4) he suffered from acromegaly (5), a disorder which results in many of the features listed above. Further, if acromegaly takes effect when a

child is still growing, it can result in gigantism (6), which would not only explain Thrax's appearance, but also his immense size, all without forcing the assumption that he was a descendant of genetically modified humans. It is also worth noting that while we do have sources describing Thrax being incredibly tall by the standards of his day, the precise 8'6" figure cited by the poster does not originate from a reliable historical source. (6)

4. GOLIATH 1 SAM 17:4 1010 BC (10ft. 6in.) Goliath is only a 9' tall behemoth if one ignores the fact that only later sources hold to this height (also, most estimates based on these later sources place Goliath as 1' - 1'6" shorter than Taylor's 10'6" estimate). Most of the original/oldest texts we have available that reference Goliath's height (i.e., the Septuagint, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Josephus, etc.) all place Goliath between 6' and 6'6"; nowhere near the near 10' espoused by modern Biblical translations and certainly nowhere near the +10'5" estimate provided by Taylor. (7) In reference to Goliath's brothers also being as large as he was, it may be inferred from the mentioning of his brothers/family sharing similar features to him (as is described in 1 Chron. 20 and 2 Sam. 21) that the family is what's being described (that is to say, Goliath and his brothers are not part of a race of giants), suffering from a hereditary pituitary disorder unique to the family line, as was put forward by the Ulster Medical Society. (8)

5. OG King of Bashan Deut 3:11 1400 BC While the Bible does say that Og was great in stature, it nowhere makes the claim that he was 12' (the reader may browse the entirety of Deut. 3 if they would like to confirm this). Using the size of Og's bed as the means by which to deduce his height is ridiculous, as in ancient times beds were used for purposes other than just sleeping, such as reclining at a party, or demonstrating the great wealth and status of the owner by virtue of its massiveness. (9) Further, one must recall that the average height of an individual living in Israel at this time was around 5' - 5'5". Anyone a foot or two above this would be considered gigantic at the time: anyone from the relatively average modern height of 6' up to Shaquille O'Neal (7'1") or Yao Ming (7'6") would have been gigantic by that day's standards. Such great heights being more commonplace or well known today does not mean that such an individual would be seen as "just a bit taller" in the ancient context we are discussing, and Og being described as "great in stature" does not necessitate we assume such a monstrous or unrealistic height of over 12'.

6. 1577 AD (sic.) Under an overturned Oak tree in the canton of Lucerne (19ft. 6in.) The reader may well be informed that only a selection of large bones were discovered in the instance being cited by Taylor, nothing near human bones or a complete human skeleton, much less one that would allow us to ascertain the height of whatever giant Taylor believes they may have belonged to. The bones were alleged to have been discovered at Lucerne in 1577 were examined in 1706 and were found to have belonged to an elephant, not a human being. This case was recorded in Sir Henry Howorth's (10) 1877 *The Mammoth and the Flood: An Attempt to Confront the Theory of Uniformity with the Facts of Recent Geology*. (11)

7. 1456 AD (sic.) France beside a river in Valence (23 ft.) As with the first “giant” figure examined, there is no evidence for this claim to be found anywhere. All of the resources able to be located that make this claim list Taylor as the source of their information, or list no source at all.

8. 1613 AD (sic.) France, near the Castle of Chaumont. Nearly a complete Skeleton (25ft. 6in.) While the tales of the legendary giant king Teutobochus did give rise to this widely circulated tale, the finding of an intact or nearly intact human skeleton did not occur. While some of the large bones connected to the popular tale of discovery cited by Taylor were displayed in Paris for many years, modern analysis has revealed that these bones belonged to a pachyderm, thought to be either the remains of one of Hannibal’s elephants, a mastodon, or a deinotherium (a prehistoric elephant relative). (12)

9. 650 BC - 640 AD (sic.) Carthaginians uncovered two this size. An earthquake in Cimmorian (sic.) Bosphorus (sic.) uncovered one more (36ft.) There exists zero secondary source material for any work that makes this claim, and of the sources found that referenced it, each of them are nearly identical in wording to Taylor’s poster, demonstrating as far as can be determined that they all used Taylor’s poster as their reference point as the initial claim. Even an open discussion (13) of this image could not turn up any sources for this particular claim, likely due to the fact that the nature of the claim is so extravagant that no one would take it seriously. It is speculated that this claim is based on third or fourth hand information passed on privately to Taylor that was not confirmed by any investigation or external evidence (if not fabricated entirely out of thin air). (14) Additionally, the “Cimmorian Bosphorus” does not exist. It is believed that Taylor is attempting to refer to the Bosporan Kingdom, an ancient Grecco-Scythian state which is sometimes referred to as the Kingdom of the Cimmerian Bosphorus. (14) However, an issue arises regarding this reference when one considers the dating Taylor mentions. The Bosporan Kingdom only endured until the fourth century CE (14) (15), with the final Cimmerian king, Tiberius Julius Rhadamsades, ruling between 308 and 323 CE (16) (17). Taylor’s vagueness means that he is wrong somewhere in this claim by default, although it cannot be known where exactly: is Taylor claiming that the skeletons were uncovered almost a thousand years apart (one in 650 BCE and one in 640 CE) and we don’t know precisely when they lived or were uncovered, or is he saying that one 36’ tall giant lived in 650 BCE and another 36’ tall giant lived in 640 CE and that both skeletons were discovered later, or is he claiming that this pair of 36’ tall giants lived at some point in the past and were discovered by individuals living in the Cimmerian Bosphorus region sometime between the years 650 BCE and 640 CE? Either way you cut it, Taylor’s claim does not line up with the historical narrative that he claims it occurred in. External data that could help clear this up would be extremely helpful, though Taylor has yet, as far as can be determined, to provide any.

Conclusion

Disappointingly, none of the claims made by Taylor through this poster are able to be substantiated. Many of them seem to be misunderstandings of well known archaeological finds, while others appear to be completely made up. As this paper has demonstrated, using such a poster as a defense for claims regarding ancient giants will not lend any credibility to the one making the claim, and may have an irreversible effect upon young and impressionable individuals exposed to the “data” that it presents as though it were concrete or accepted anthropology or archaeology. It was due to such an observation that this paper was put forward as an encompassing refutation of the pseudoscience Taylor is peddling in an effort to aid others in avoiding being taken in by this sort of fraudulent anthropology.

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