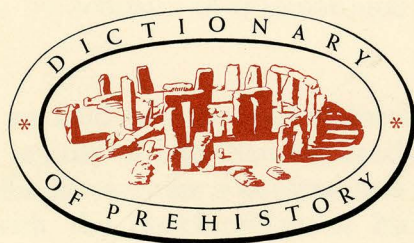


DICTIONARY  
OF  
PREHISTORY



CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

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*Dictionary of Prehistory*

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# DICTIONARY OF PREHISTORY

## *A Brief Statement of Scope and Plan*

**T**he *Dictionary of Prehistory* has been planned to provide scholars, teachers, and laymen with authoritative factual information about all important topics in the field of Prehistory. There will be three volumes. One will be devoted to the prehistory of the Old World and the second will cover the prehistory of the New World. The third volume, the *Album of Prehistoric Cultures*, will assemble all pertinent graphic evidence—maps, plans, and pictures—required to support and document the articles and entries contained in the text volumes. The editor of the *Dictionary of Prehistory* is Walter A. Fairservis, Jr.

**T**he *Dictionary of Prehistory* will be a cooperative work, written by scholars of international reputation.

**P**robably no field of historical research has been extended more rapidly of late than the study of Prehistoric Man. It is difficult even for a professional prehistorian to keep pace with the development of his own subject. Yet, since by far the greater part of the time span during which man has lived on the earth is prehistoric, it is important that the accumulating new knowledge of the Prehistoric world be set forth with clarity, precision and

completeness. Neither this new knowledge nor its implications are to be found in textbooks or in the writing of most non-professional writers on the subject. As a consequence of the old-fashioned idea that Prehistoric Man contributed little to the achievements of the historical periods which were to come, writers of general history are too often prone to dismiss the Prehistoric world in a few words or a conventional chapter.

**E**ach *Dictionary* text volume will be made up of four basic parts:

1. A number of long articles by experts, dealing with major topics—such as *Paleolithic Art, Religion, Evolution of Society, Human Evolution, Domestication, Prehistoric Technology, Man Among the Vertebrates*, and full detailed descriptions of *Regional Prehistories*.
2. Shorter articles on special subjects which supplement the major articles. These would include, for example, *Neanderthal Man, Stone Tool Manufacture*, articles on aspects of archaeological method, detailed accounts of technology, specific descriptions of major sites (such as Jarmo, Cheng Tze Yai, Lascaux), and biographies of all prehistorians who have contributed to the development of the science.
3. Concise entries, fully cross-referenced, which will form a compendium or survey of all critical archaeological sites, located and described according to their content, level by level. Shorter articles will also constitute in sum a glossary of terms used in archaeology and anthropology.
4. Pertinent and up-to-date bibliographical references will be provided for all articles.

It is obvious that no one book or group of books could ever contain the full wealth of material at hand, and this problem is complicated by the new material which is recovered each year by archaeology. The *Dictionary of Prehistory* will attempt only to reflect the understanding which the principal prehistorians of the world have reached at this time as to the life of man during remote ages. It will also exemplify the critical approaches which have made possible so much of the modern prehistorians' interpretation of past life; thus, it may well be that two or more authors may be asked to write on the same topic, each expressing his own present knowledge and illustrating at the same time the difference in methodologies. Juxtaposition of such articles, it is hoped, will enable the reader to understand the reasons for the difference of interpretation among scientists, and will underline the fact that scholarly differences are often characteristic of the study of Prehistory, owing to the order of the evidence. Understanding of chronology and inter-regional dating may be obtained by what is hoped will be a very accurate, up-to-date series of chronological appendices which will, for example, correlate as far as possible the latest radio-carbon data with known historical chronologies.

Obviously, the *Dictionary of Prehistory* will not satisfy the specialists who must go beyond what the *Dictionary* could possibly offer. Its particular value will lie in presenting the views of other areas of learning on the same or related fields, and also in providing meaningful knowledge of regions and periods widely separated from an individual scholar's own interests. The *Dictionary* will not pretend to complete novelty, or put itself forward as quite different from anything written before. It will, however, have the advantage of being as up-to-date as it can be, as fully representative of modern and expert opinion as is

possible, and completely reliable as a major source book in human history.

The work, when finished, will represent for the future a fair statement of our knowledge of Prehistory in the middle decades of the 20th century. Newer tools provided by the biological and physical sciences have made possible the accumulation of new data from archaeology. A concern with ancient environments and with the character of prehistoric ecology has opened out new horizons which are largely unfamiliar to those outside the professional fold. Prehistoric studies have also been strongly influenced by developments in the field of anthropology. The *Dictionary*, therefore, can play a major role in promulgating and explaining the new concepts and ideas which new approaches in science have motivated and made possible. It is now apparent that the study of Prehistoric life is no longer the exclusive field of the archaeologist or paleontologist. The culture historian, the art historian and the philosopher have also their views which are supported in many instances by the evidence of life in Prehistoric times. While the *Dictionary* will be largely an account of archaeological findings (since archaeology has the major contribution to make in terms of the evidence), every effort will be made to include the views of effective workers in other fields—even when these views may seem speculative.

The interpretation of the life of Prehistoric Man is probably the most difficult kind of interpretation of past life because the evidence is so selectively preserved. For this reason, we intend to provide a substantial coverage of the history of research in Prehistory—so that any interested reader may obtain a succinct view of the development of the science.

The *Dictionary* aims to be more than a compendium of archaeological data and subsequent interpretation; it will also illustrate to what degree Prehistory and the views of prehistorians have influenced modern concepts of man and his place in the world. First and foremost, however, the *Dictionary* will be an accurate source of facts; the reader must be able to go to it with confidence for the latest information on such topics as the emergence of man, the date of Altamira, the domestication of animals, primitive religion, the character of fossil man, the emergence of settled life, what prehistoric remains are to be found in any given region, the age of certain technological skills—such as fire-making, the lever, and the bow-and-arrow. Even such dubious notions as the “missing link” and the “lost continent” will be included and reviewed critically. From initial curiosity about some single point of fact, a reader should be able to progress by means of cross references and corollary articles just as far as he wishes to pursue the subject of Prehistoric Man and his culture.

Articles are to be written “in depth” and the writers will be given full freedom to express themselves in the fullest and clearest way possible. Cross references to specific site articles and other special subject treatments will permit an ease in writing and in the development of a general topic which can not be attained in the usual scholarly article. For example, researches over the past thirty years into the problem of the emergence of settled life in Western Asia and adjacent regions have revealed a wealth of archaeological sites. As each of these sites will be separately described and identified in the *Dictionary*, the writers of the major articles on the broad topic of the Emergence of Man—who will, of course, refer to these sites in their articles—may give much more of their effort to the ideas which have been

based on the material than to the material itself, confident at the same time that any interested reader may turn to the evidence as he chooses. The layman who is often baffled by the style of archaeological and anthropological literature should find this a welcome advance in the communication of scientific knowledge.

**I**n view of the need for such a work as the *Dictionary of Prehistory* and the service which it can perform if it be properly executed, the Editors trust that they will have the support and cooperation of their professional colleagues in its production.

It is intended that the *Dictionary of Prehistory* will take its place eventually as the first in a series of works designed to constitute in sum a true *Dictionary of World History*—a comprehensive and authoritative reference work to all cultures and all eras. From a solid basis in Prehistory, and using the same method as the *Dictionary*, the successive volumes will carry on through the emergence and development of world civilizations down to the record of our own era.