

Original (possibly name of site)

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR QUATERNARY RESEARCH
UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'ETUDE DU QUATERNAIRE
INTERNATIONALE QUARTÄRVEREINIGUNG
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОЮЗ ПО ИЗУЧЕНИЮ ЧЕТВЕРТИЧНОГО ПЕРИОДА
UNION INTERNACIONAL PARA EL ESTUDIO DEL CUATERNARIO

President :

Jane M. Soons
Dept. of Geography
University of Canterbury
Private Bag
CHRISTCHURCH
New Zealand

Brussels, 23 August 1978
Madame MCM Beltrão
Professora Titular da
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
Museu Nacional

Secretary-Treasurer :

R. Paepe
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Kwartairgeologie
Pleinlaan, 2
B-1050 BRUSSEL
Belgium
Tel. : 02-648.55.40/1391

Dear Colleague,

Vice-Presidents :

J. Donner
Dept. of Geology and Palaeontology
Helsinki University
00170 - HELSINKI 70
Finland

Before leaving for Brasil I received your letter dated 16 August 1978, relating to the publication of a series of Papers on "Early Man in America" by A.L. Bryan. Sure I remember the meeting from december 1976 in your office at the Museu Nacional in Rio together with you and Mr. x Mrs. Bryan. So you may understand that I am at present very surprised about the evolution of this affair.

H. Faure
Laboratoire de Géologie du Quaternaire
C.N.R.S. - Centre Universitaire Luminy
70, rue Léon Lachamp
F-13288 MARSEILLE Cédex 2

As you have requested I will inform Prof. De Lumley who is the President of the INQUA Commission on the "Paleoecology of Early Man" as well as Professor Bordes who wrote the "Preface" and who is as you know very competent in these matters.

K.V. Nikiforova
Geological Institute of the
Academy of Science of USSR
Pygevy per. 7
MOSCOW Z-17
USSR

With regard to the scientific aspect of the Alice Boër site I am astonished to find in the publication made by Prof. Bryan only one reference with regard to your publications even when they are numerous, and only the photographs of three non-representative pieces of artefacts of the collection found in Bed V of the site. Since you deny any co-authorship, I assume it was Prof. Bryan who made this selection. However, as I had the occasion to look at the Alice Boër industries many times, I quite agree with your statements that: first, there is an important mixture of industries; second, that two types are preponderant: the moustérien with typical levallois flaking and a great number of end - and side - scrapers and a much older, "chellean" industry with chopping tools and bi-faces. Again I agree with your claim that both industries have been transported by water but then, considering the highly worn aspect of the older artefacts and the almost fresh aspects of the younger ones, I would advocate that deposition took place at about the period of manufacturing of the younger mate-

Albert L. Washburn
Quaternary Research Center
University of Washington
SEATTLE, Washington 98105
U.S.A.

Past President :

Vladimir Sibrava
Geological Survey
of Czechoslovakia
118 21 PRAHA 1
Malostranské nám. 19.
Czechoslovakia

rial. In European terms, this would mean somewhere between 35.000 and 150.000 BP. Taking your datation of Bed III into account I would think of an age of about 50.000 BP.

Nevertheless, considering the chellean affinity of the chopping tools, occurring together with a younger industry, I would like to believe that Early Man had chosen the Rio Claro valley as a dwelling place already since the middle of the Mid - Pleistocene.

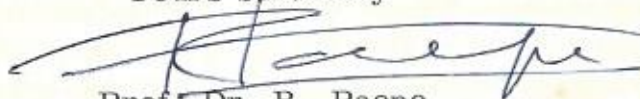
As you know I am working on the Mid-Pleistocene deposits of the Rio Doce in Minas Gerais which perfectly fit with the succession in the Rio Claro area as well as around the Itaborai site.

The findings of Alice Boer and Itaborai are therefore most important for Archaeologists and Geologists since they seriously render the age of arrival of mankind and related deposits much older. As we discussed many times, this may change totally the concept of the usage of the Bhering Strait and its importance for South America.

I dare hope you may rectify this view on the presence of Mankind in South America quickly as I would like also to suggest you compare the industries of Alice Boer and Itaborai with the collections of French Prehistory.

Finally, I would like to ask you to keep me informed. With best regards.

Yours sincerely



Prof. Dr. R. Paepe
Secretary - Treasurer

cc.: Prof. H. De Lumley, Pres. Paleoc. Early Man
Prof. F. Bordes, Lab. de Quaternaire, Bordeaux
Inqua Executive Committee.