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On the Cover

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SciTech News

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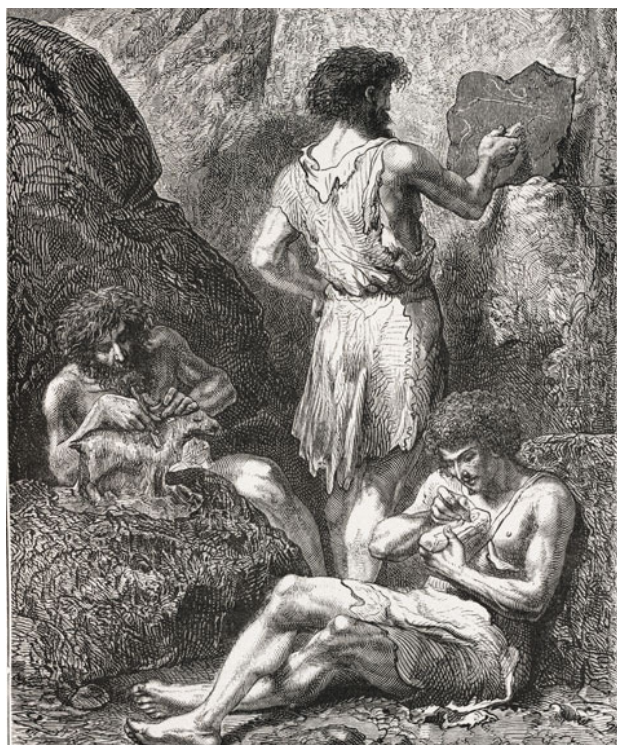


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SciTech News



On the Cover



The idea that prehistoric humans might have expressed themselves by carving bone and engraving rocks was brand new in 1870, when Louis Figuier's *L'homme primitive* (*Primitive Man*) was published. In fact, the whole notion of human antiquity was only about ten years old. The first bone carvings were discovered around 1860 in caves in the Dordogne region of France. Figuier's reconstructed cave men are using burins to carve bone objects and sculpt clay, but they are NOT painting the walls—the first cave paintings at Altamira would not be discovered until 1879, and it would be another 23 years after that, before they were accepted as genuine (*photo and caption courtesy of the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology*).

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