
April 2012

On the Cover

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Recommended Citation

(2012) "On the Cover," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 66: Iss. 2, Article 1.

Available at: <https://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol66/iss2/1>

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SciTech News

The Official Bulletin for the Chemistry, Engineering, and Science-Technology Divisions and the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association

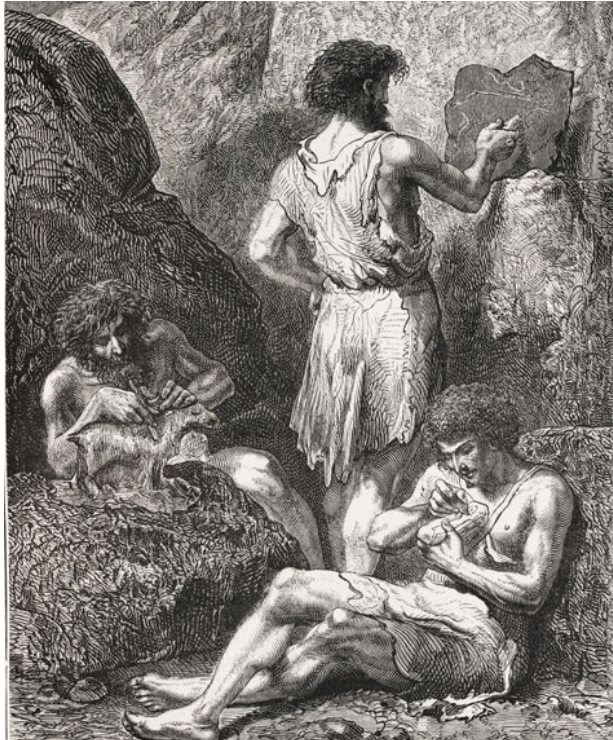


Volume 66, Number 2 (2012)
ISSN 0036-8059

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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Copy Deadline

Issue Number 1	Feb 1
Issue Number 2	April 1
Issue Number 3	Aug 1
Issue Number 4	Nov 1

SciTech News

Volume 66, Number 2 (2012)
ISSN 0036-8059

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SCITECH NEWS (ISSN 0036-8059) is published quarterly (March, May, September, December) by the Chemistry, Engineering, and the Science-Technology Divisions, the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division, and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association, 132 Hemingway Place, Georgetown, KY, 40324, (859) 539-5810.

Publication Policy: *SciTech News* is the official bulletin of the Chemistry, Engineering, Science-Technology Divisions, the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division, and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association. The contents of articles and editorials are not to be construed as being or representing the official position of the sponsoring divisions.

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Manuscripts: The Editor solicits papers of interest to the community of science and technology-oriented special libraries. Manuscripts of articles should be sent via E-mail (Microsoft Word or Plain Text format) to abby.thorne@gmail.com.

Subscriptions: Special Libraries Association members in the Chemistry, Engineering, Science-Technology Divisions, the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division automatically receive subscriptions to *SciTech News*. Their annual subscription fee of \$1.00 is paid from their annual dues to the Special Libraries Association.

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