

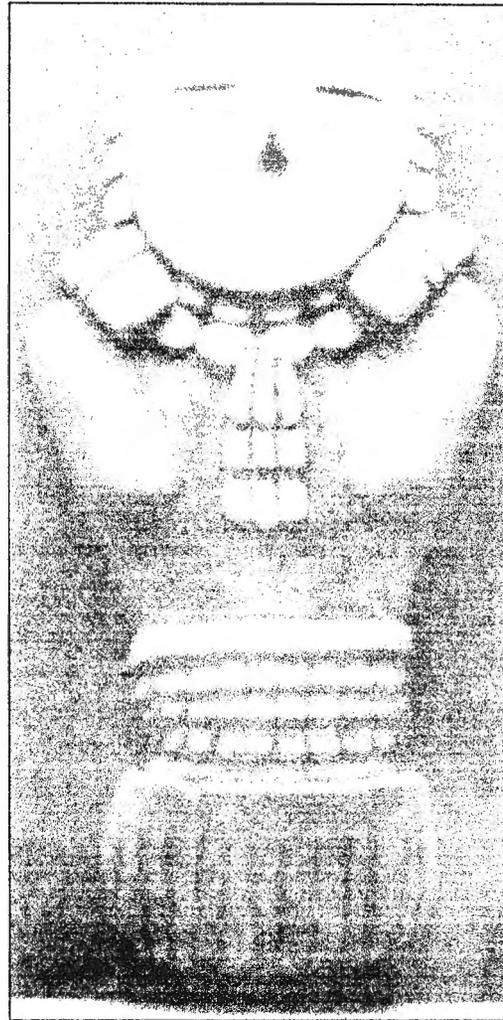
The Pilling Figurines

These figurines were discovered in March 1950, by Clarence Pilling of Price, Utah in a small side canyon of Range Creek where he owned a ranch at that time. They have since been called in archeological circles, the "Pilling Figurines". The rock overhang where they were found is also known as Pilling's Cave and shelters an irregular area about 100 feet long with a maximum width of 12 feet, and contained, besides the eleven figurines on a natural shelf at the back, a ruined oval room about 10x6 which appears to have had a stone foundation and wooden superstructure, some of the poles of which showed evidence of stone tools. On the cave wall behind the room is a pictograph in white paint 3 ½ inches high of a trapezoid-shape figure. Other artifacts noted were a deeply troughed metate (grinding stone) and a single piece of gray pottery.

All of the figurines are made of unbaked clay and are decorated with applied clay ornaments showing remarkable skill and artistry. The late Noel Morss of the Peabody Museum of Harvard University, who had written, concerning the Pilling Figurines ("Clay Figurines of the American Southwest"), that they were all made by the same person and in pairs. He said, "It is remarkable that such delicate objects should have remained undisturbed and largely undamaged by humans, animals, or the elements, in such a location for the several centuries which have undoubtedly elapsed since their manufacture. "

The figurines, while still soft, were laid on the bottoms of baskets or trays as the imprints can be seen on the back of several of the specimens, and apparently they were intended to be viewed from the front only because the back usually does not contain decorations or ornaments. They range in size from four to six inches, and still show evidence of red, buff and black paint.

Morss further said: "The sexes are clearly distinguished in both anatomy and dress. The females have breasts and wide hips and wear aprons. The men wear breechclouts, except for one, which has a sort of kilt. The women dress their hair in heavy bobs, bound with cord, hanging down over the shoulders... the necklace and belt employ pear shaped



pendants, pierced near the upper end, or disc-shaped objects with a hole for attachment near the edge, rather than in the center. Above and below the eyes, which are formed by transverse slits, are usually present painted stripes."

Morss had numbered and paired the figurines

according to sex, color variation in painting, etc. There is one female (#1) whose mate may have been lost or destroyed. Morss dated the Pilling Figurines as probably having been made in the 11th century, which means they are in the neighborhood of 800 or 900 years of age.

The Pilling Figurines are considered in archeological literature to excel, both in beauty and technical construction, any other like find of comparative age in the American Southwest. They have been sought by many outstanding museums of this country, and the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum of Price, Utah, is indeed grateful to Mr. Clarence Pilling and the BLM for exhibition of the figurines.

Pamphlet from the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum, Price, Utah.

Rules and Regulations Regarding Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Collecting in Utah

by Geologic Service Staff Utah Geological Survey, revised April 1996

Utah's rock, mineral and fossil collectors must adhere to rules and regulations established by owners of the lands on which they wish to collect. Prior to collecting, rockhounds should determine ownership of the lands they intend to visit and familiarize themselves with the regulations that apply to collecting on those lands. Site-specific land-ownership maps may be consulted at the recorder's office in the county in which you intend to collect. Utah's lands are managed by the federal government (Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, or the Bureau of Indian Affairs), state government (School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration), and private owners (including local governments). Rockhounding permits are required to collect on some government lands, and permission is required to collect on private lands.

FEDERAL LANDS

About 67 percent of Utah's lands are managed by the federal government. Most of this land is open to collection except for National Parks, National Monuments, Indian Reservation, military reservation, dam sites, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lands: The casual collector may take small amounts of petrified wood, invertebrate and plant fossils, gemstones, and rocks from unrestricted federal lands in Utah without obtaining a special permit if collection is for

personal use, non-commercial purposes. Collection in large quantities or for commercial purposes requires a permit, lease, or license from the BLM.

Collectors of petrified wood on BLM land are subject to slightly different rules. Collecting for personal use has a maximum limit of 25 pounds plus one piece per day but cannot exceed more than 250 pounds per calendar year. Use of explosives and/or power equipment is forbidden. Collectors wishing to resell their petrified wood specimens must apply for a permit.

National Parks and Native American Lands: Collecting on these lands is prohibited.

U.S. Forest Service Lands: Rock, mineral, and fossil collecting on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service requires a permit. Although collecting is allowed in most districts and permits are free, collecting rules vary among districts. Seek the rules to avoid penalties.

STATE LANDS

Most state-owned property is managed by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (Trust Lands) and a Rockhounding Permit is required to collect on these lands. A fee is charged for the annual permit. Rockhounds may collect up to 25 pounds plus one piece per person per day, up to a maximum of 250 pounds per year. Collectors cannot operate in state or local parks.

To remove rock, mineral, or fossil specimens from state lands, commercial collectors must also follow specific regulations, and apply for mineral leases. Materials such as building stone, limestone, gemstones and volcanic materials are commonly collected by amateur collectors with permits but require leases for commercial collectors. Obtain permits from: State Lands @ 355 W. North Temple 3 Triad Center Suite 400, Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1204 (801-538-5508).

PRIVATE LANDS

To collect you must have permission from the land owner prior to entering the property.

NOTE: Dinosaur and other vertebrate fossils may not be collected in any instance except by permits issued to accredited institutions. For more information, contact Paleontology and Paleoecology program, Utah Geological Survey, 1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6100.

SAFETY TIPS

Rockhounding can be a potentially dangerous hobby. To minimize the risk of injury, please remember . . .

- Wear protective clothing (safety glasses, gloves, boots).
- Do not work alone, and let someone else know your schedule.
- Carry a first aid kit.
- Watch for others, and when on slopes, never work directly above or below anyone.
- Do not enter abandoned mines or shafts.