

Man Who Witnessed the flood

Fran Adams

Mistakes can be as strange as prehistoric life forms. The fossil remains of a giant salamander *Andrias scheuchzeri* were found in Öhningen, Germany at the border with Switzerland, by Swiss naturalist Johann Jakob Scheuchzer (1672-1733).

Hyperlinks in text and images.



Homo diluvii testis
(Salamander)



Öhningen, Bodensee, Germany
'V' label for letters with declared value



Noah's Ark in the Great Flood

He named the specimen *Homo diluvii testis* ("man who witnessed the flood"). His interpretation of the fossil was a young man who drowned during the bible's 'Great Flood' - a guy who really missed the boat!

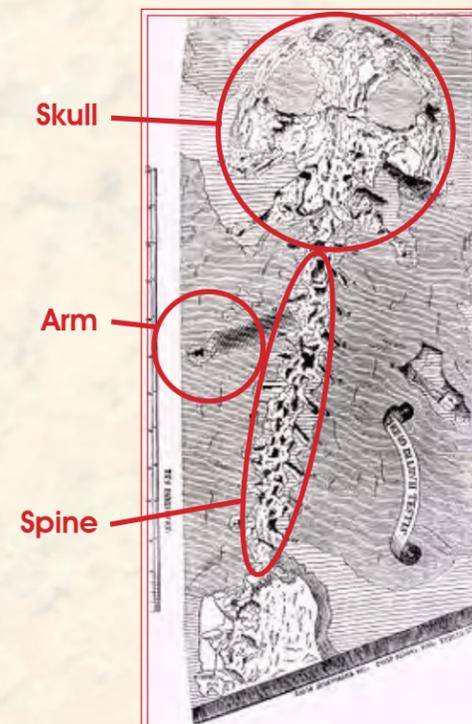


Zürich (Hottingen), Switzerland to the Los Altos, CA., 19 October 1969, San Francisco #32 US Customs Inspector marking 4 November 1969. Pro Patria values (charity stamps) paid airmail rate 1 Franc 40c, and registration fee 50c, 'R' label tracking number 069. Letter likely contained something of low value as it cleared customs without charges,

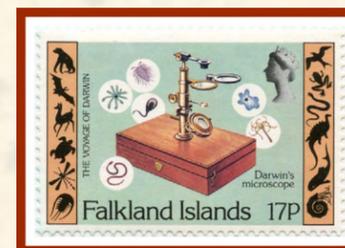


Johan Jacob Scheuchzer, printed to private order postal card
Glatzentrum bei Wallisellen to Unterägeri, Switzerland, 25 January 1977

Scheuchzer's
Illustration



In Scheuchzer's illustration, you can surely see how this mistake might be made by naturalists of the era only beginning to understand these ancient life forms with the crude scientific instruments of the period.



Microscope



Hammer



Georges Cuvier
French naturalist
Father of Paleontology

French naturalist Georges Cuvier (1769-1832), corrected Scheuchzer's mis-classification after studying the sketches and illustrations.