

The Human Bones at Glozel

Saloman Reinach commented that human bones had been found at Glozel, a few in the tombs, but the majority buried in the soil. At present, there are about 30 human bone fragments in the museum. Although most finds seem to be skull and femur fragments, there are also two ribs in the museum, according to Michel Latour. When found, some of these bones were reddish brown, possibly colored with ochre. This coloration has now almost completely disappeared.

One of the first finds was an almost complete human skull, discovered by Emile during the excavation of the fosse ovale. It was accompanied by several other bones, non-identified but most likely fragments of femurs. Mademoiselle Picandet, the schoolmistress who visited soon after the finds, confirmed having seen these bones. The skull was stored for a while in the doctor's office at Ferrières, but when Dr. Morlet went to look for it in 1925 it was gone. (Latour, 1996, p. 19)

Tomb I contained: part of the lower fragment of a left femur (GF730, part of same femur as GF742, a mid-shaft, and GF760, a femur head), the upper fragment of a right femur (GF719), a fragment of a left parietal (GF743, part of same skull as GF745), and two teeth.

Tomb II contained three skull fragments. One was a mandible, GF755, the other two were fragments of parietals. One, GF749, was very thick and had a hole in it and a gutter cut inside. In the 1920s ashes in two ceramic vases found in Tomb II at Glozel were analyzed and identified as the remains of human bone by Professor Couturier, because of their high content of phosphorus.

In the west trench were found: a fragment of the head of a right femur (GF734), a fragment of a right femur, a fragment of a mandible with three teeth, and a fragment of a left femur (GF737).

In non-identified locations: a fragment of a left femur (GF721), a cranial fragment (GF748/752), an almost complete mandible (984.2.227), two more femur fragments, a fragment of a frontal bone and a fragment of an occipital bone.

Patricia Soto-Heim states that one can suggest the existence of a robust population accustomed to physical labor, with marked muscular attachments, particularly apparent in femurs. The individuals seem to belong to a population intermediate between hunters and recent agriculturalists. The wear in the teeth is characteristic of an agricultural population.

Actes du Colloque 1996. M. Latour, "Les Ossements Humains des Sepultures de Glozel." pp. 19-41

Buy, Jean, "Les os humains de Glozel," pp. 233-255 in Morlet, Antonin, *Petit historique de l'affaire de Glozel*, Editions de la Source, 1970

Actes du Colloque 1999, Patricia Soto-Heim, "Nouvelles observations sur quelques restes humains provenant de Glozel," pp.127-139

Actes du Colloque 2001, Patricia Soto-Heim, "Remarques sur les ossements humains," pp. 31-37

Type of Bone and Identifying number	Where found: Description and comments	Datation
almost complete human skull	discovered by Emile, March 1924, buried underneath the fosse ovale. It was accompanied by several other bones, non-identified	No information
fragment of femur	found in Tomb I, June 14, 1927	1.2% nitrogen, (Salgado, 1920s)
two teeth	these were found in Tomb I, June 14, 1927	No information
lower fragment of a left femur (GF730, part of same femur as GF742, a mid-shaft, and GF760, a femur head)	GF730 was found in Tomb I, June 14, 1927, but we have no information about where GF742 and GF760 were found. GF730 must have had powerful leg muscles. (Latour Fig. 1, Buy Figs. 2 & 3)	GF760 contained 2.6% nitrogen
upper fragment of a right femur, GF719	found in Tomb I, June 14, 1927, with notches possibly made by flint tool. (Latour Fig. 2, Buy Fig. 5)	2% nitrogen
fragment of a left parietal, GF743, part of same skull as GF745	GF743 was found in Tomb I, June 14, 1927 but GF745 was found in the cross trench. Buy commented that GF745 was very thick. There is a groove, the result of a cerebral constriction, near one suture. (Latour, 3d photo, Buy Figs. 1 & 2)	GF743 contained 4% nitrogen and was dated by C-14 to 1850-1950 AD. GF745 was also dated to 1850-1955 AD.
a mandible, GF755	GF755 was found in Tomb II, June 21, 1927. There were notches, perhaps from a flint tool, on the outside. This man had a square chin and a benign tumor. (Buy, Figs. 7 & 8)	1% nitrogen. This piece was dated by C-14 to 1450-1640 AD.
a fragments of a parietal, GF749	GF749 was found in Tomb II, June 21, 1927. It was thick and had a hole in it and a gutter cut inside, after death. When found, the inside was colored with ocher. (Latour Figs. 4& 5, Buy Fig. 17 & 18)	no information
another fragment of a parietal, no Glozel number	This piece was found in Tomb II, June 21, 1927. There is no other information about it (Latour, Fig. 3, Buy Fig. 6)	no information

Type of Bone and Identifying number	Where found: Description and comments	Datation
a fragment of the head of a right femur, GF734	found in the west trench, with apparent marks of a flint blade on the surface of the head. (Latour Figs. 8 & 9, Buy Figs. 12 & 13)	with 1.2% nitrogen
a fragment of a left femur, GF737	found in the west trench, the man was probably old and had Pagets' disease (Latour Figs. 13 & 14, Buy Figs. 24 & 25)	2.4% nitrogen, C-14 dated to AD 1440-1525
a fragment of a right femur	found in the west trench. (Latour Figs. 10, 11 & 12, Buy Fig. 19)	no information
a mandible with three teeth	found in the west trench, (Latour Figs. 15 & 16, Buy Figs. 14 & 15)	no information
a fragment of a left femur, GF721	no information about where it was found (Latour Fig. 17, Buy Fig. 16)	0.8% nitrogen
a fragment of a cranial cap, GF748/752	seems to be from an old person, no information about where found	3% nitrogen
an almost complete mandible, 984.2.227	no information about where found. This was in the Morlet collection	2% nitrogen
a piece of a femur, no longer in existence	Only the Oxford number, OxA2358. There is no information as to its provenance and no picture	carbon dated to 340-530 AD
Buy also describes: a fragment of a left frontal bone	No provenance. Double the normal thickness, a few scrapes with a flint tool on the surface. (Buy Figure 9)	No information
a big fragment of a occipital bone	No provenance	No information
a fragment of a femur	No provenance	No information
two pieces of human bone	No provenance	Dated 1690-1950, 1670-1950, at Saclay in 1957