

Vital Phantasy...

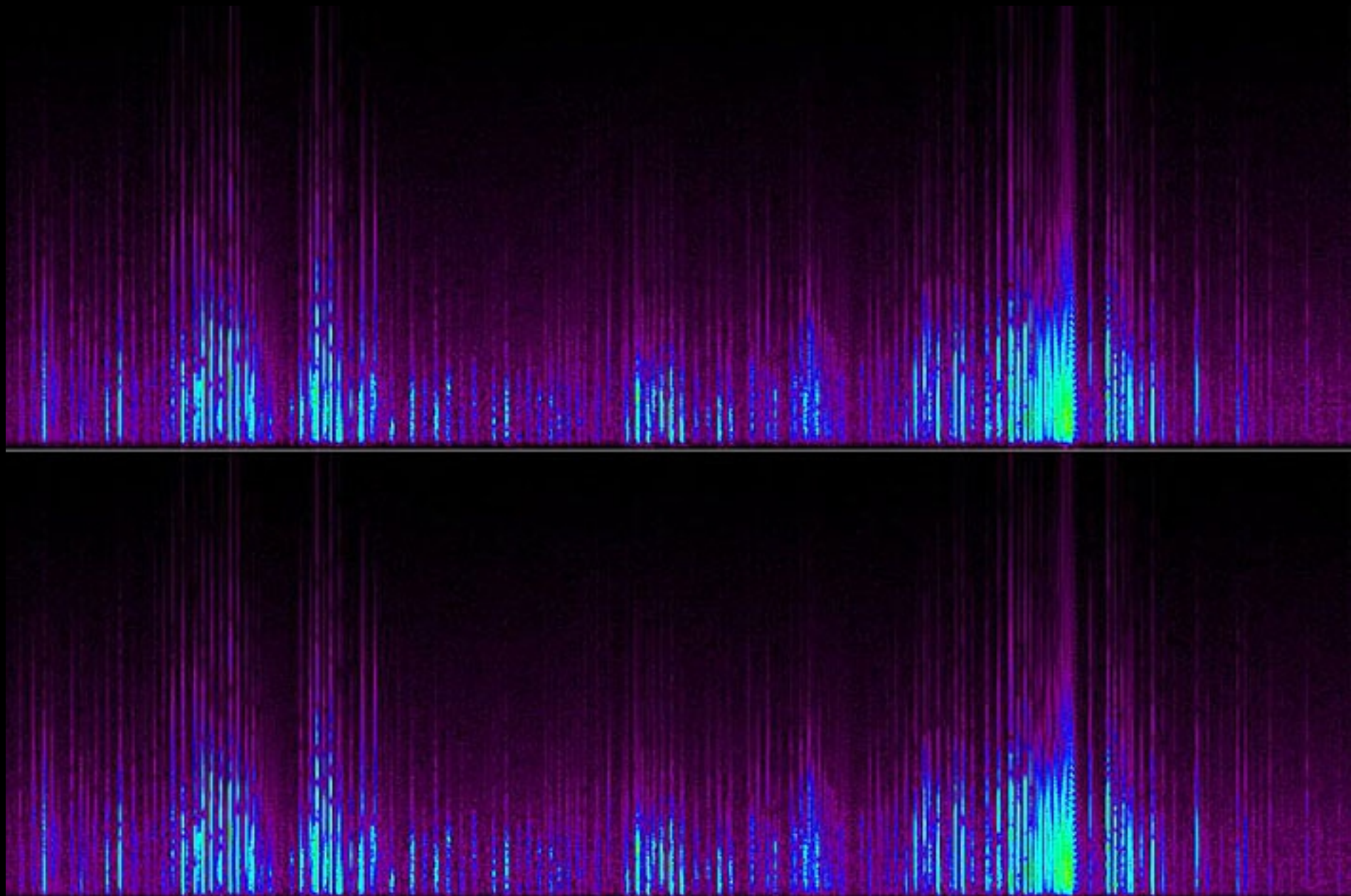


A stitched story

Animism,
Evolutionism
and More-Than-Human Earth...







At the beginning,
of the nineteenth century...

...Western scientists finally came
to agree about the fact that Earth...

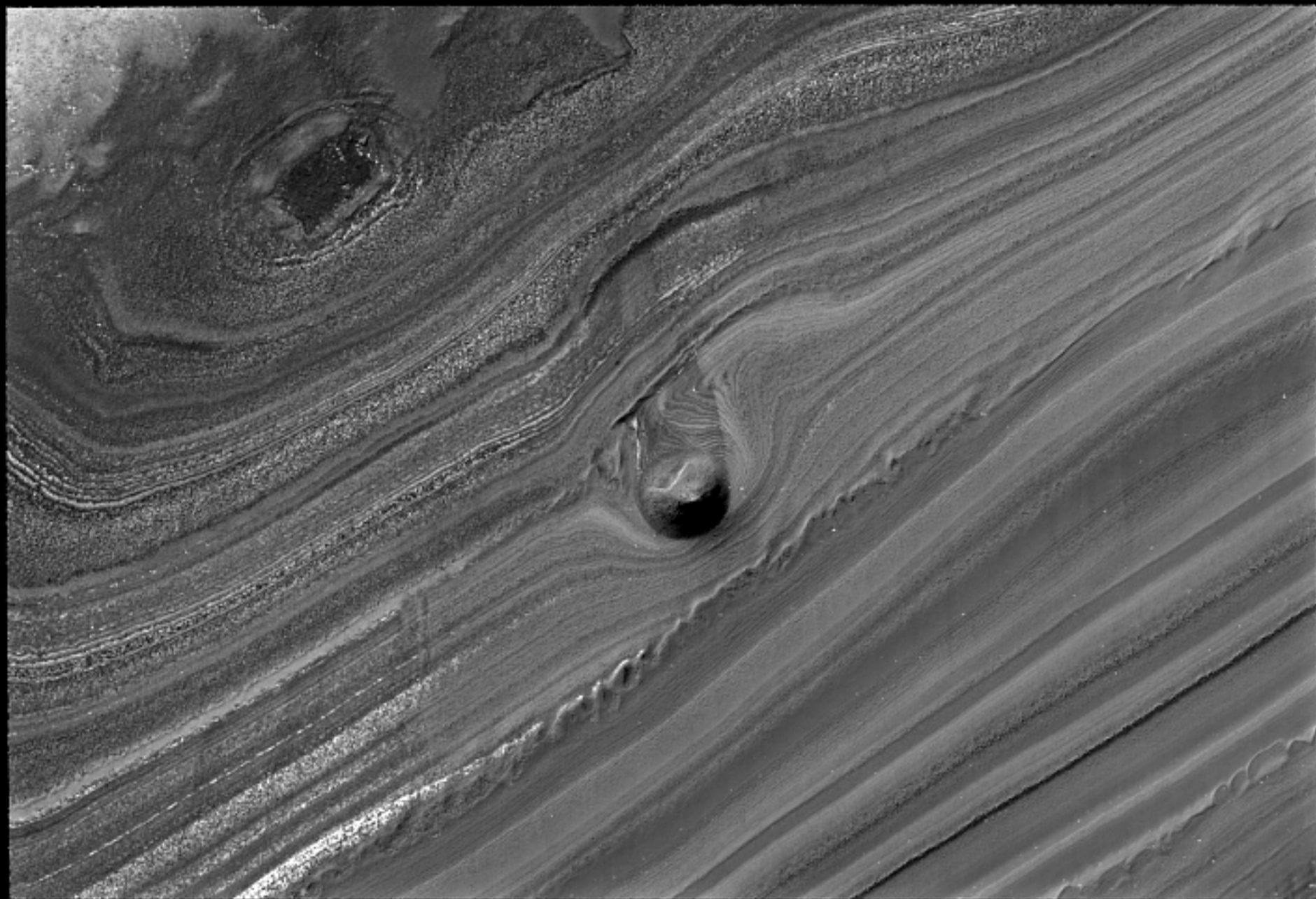


...had indeed been the subject
of transformations in the course of ages.









But field research, which produced
the proofs of these transformations,



...also brought to the light
a completely new set of evidence...



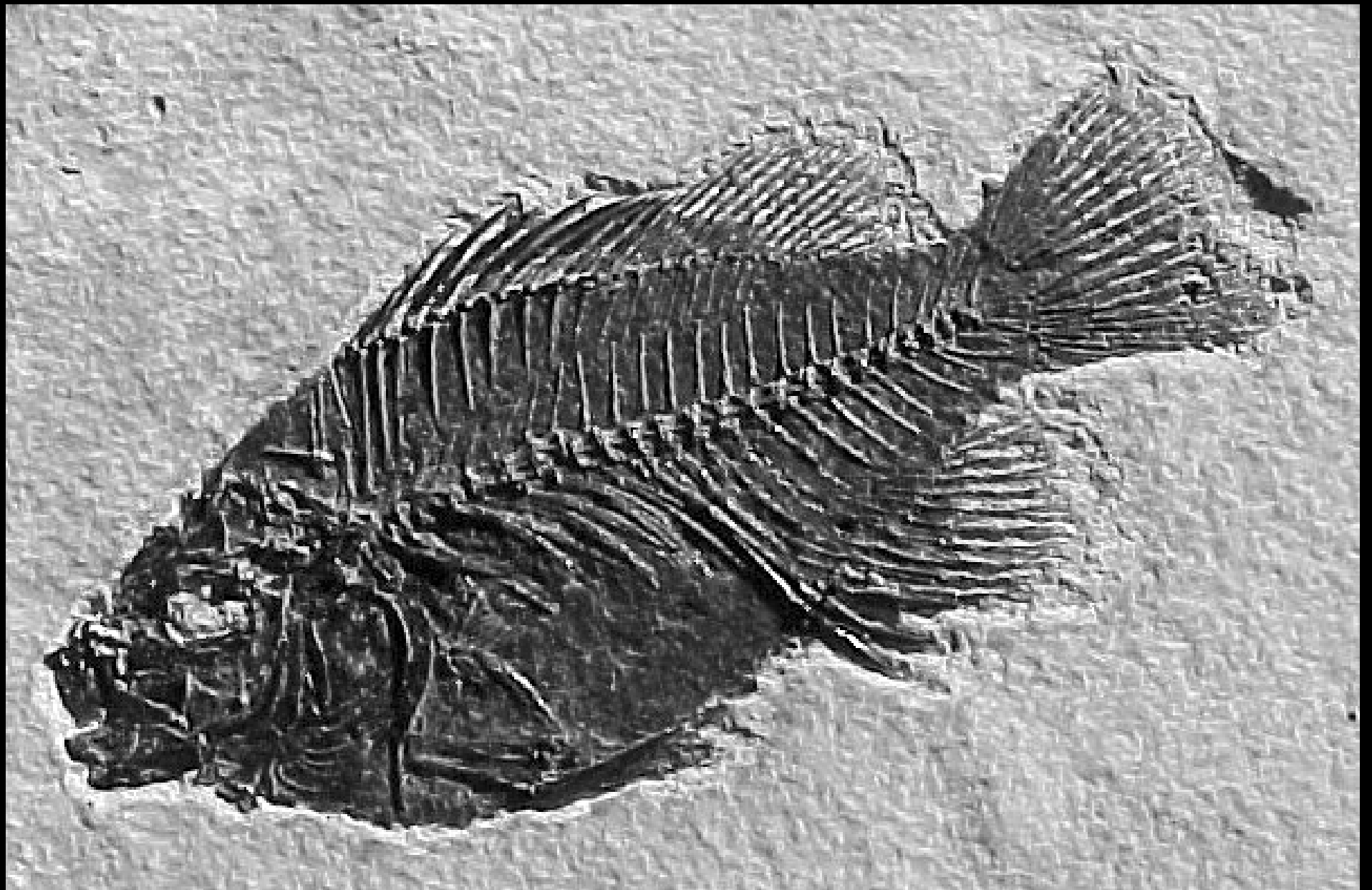




And what to conclude
from those remains, those prints...

...those "fossils"
that were discovered everywhere?





How to understand those life forms,



...which did not belong
to the present fauna or flora,

...which were thus
apparently... extinct?



Were these extinctions
caused by the Bible Flood?



Or by some
gigantic natural catastrophe?



Would "Man the Hunter"
be the exterminating agent?

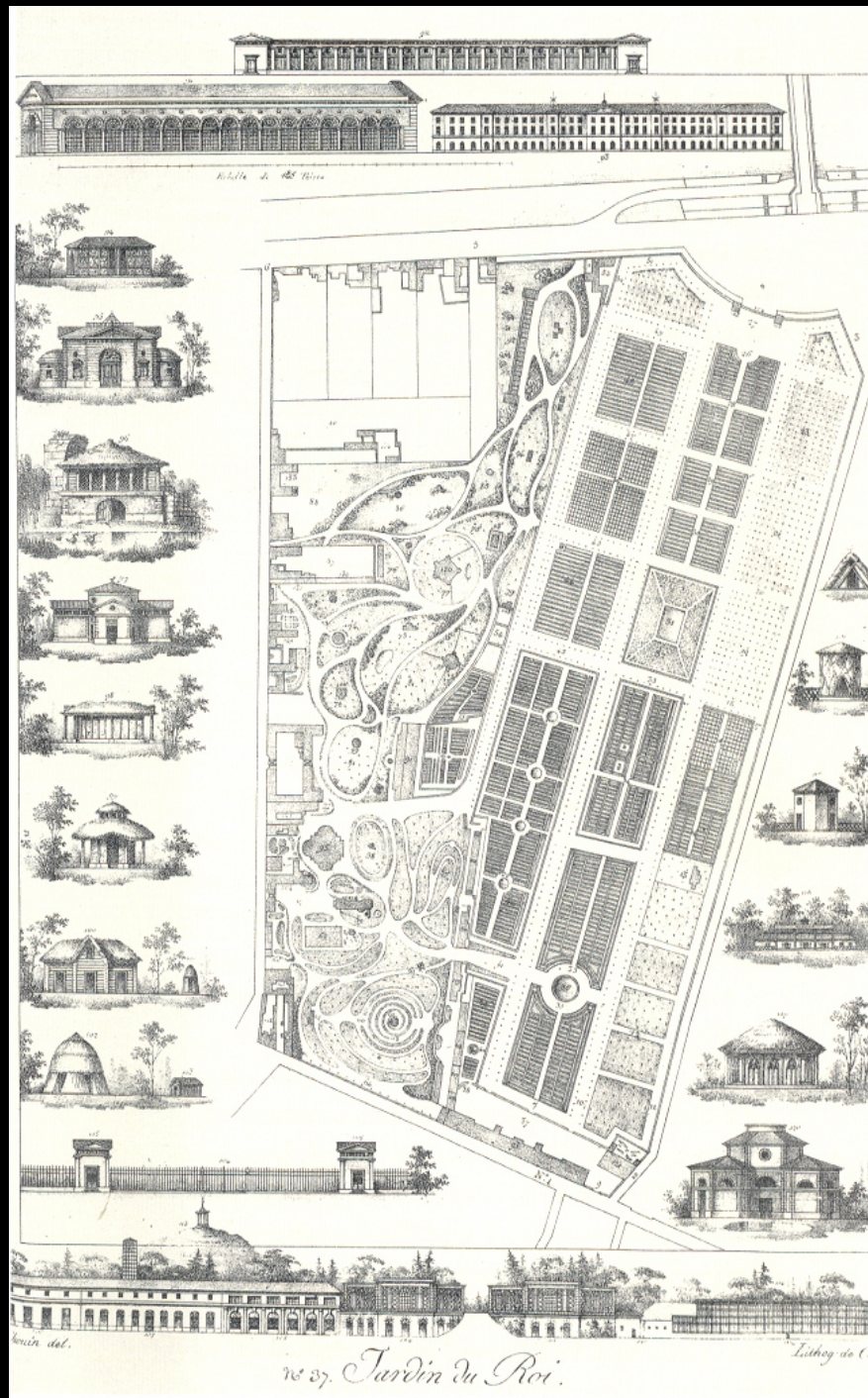


In 1809,
Jean-Baptiste P. A. de Monet,
chevalier de Lamarck (1744-1829),



...who was the curator of the famous collections
of the Museum in Paris,





Rehelle de des Rives

Plan del.

no 27. Jardin du Roi.

Lithog de C.

...used those collections
as a virtual experimental field.

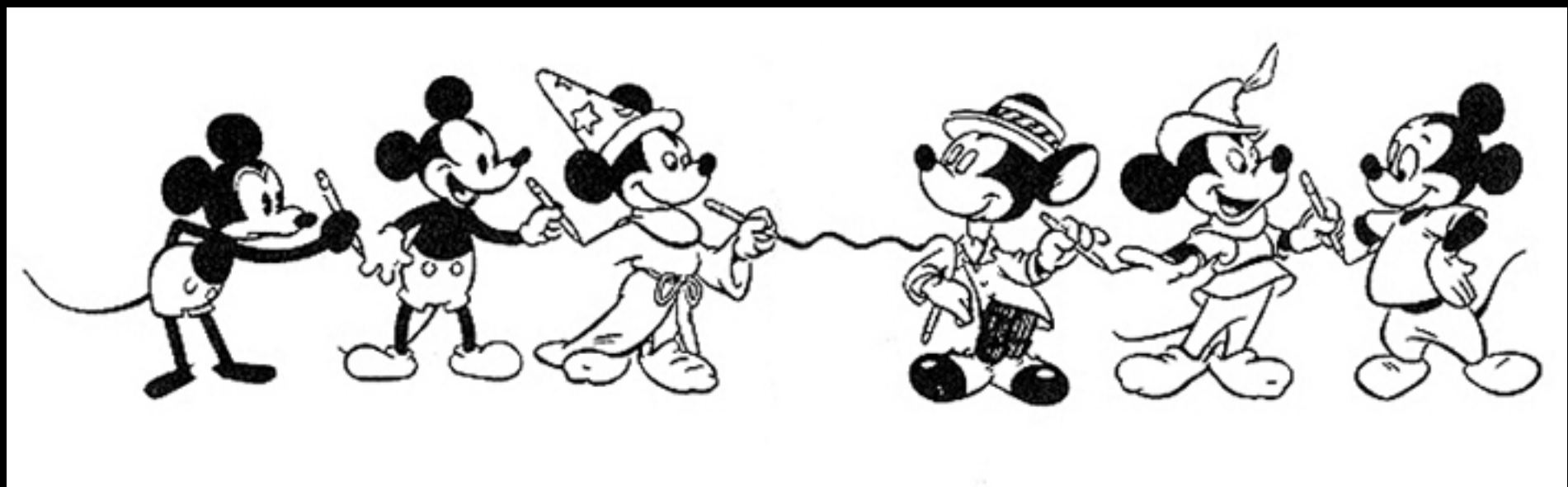


Paying intense attention
to tenuous resemblances,

...he was able to produce
continuous series of organisms...



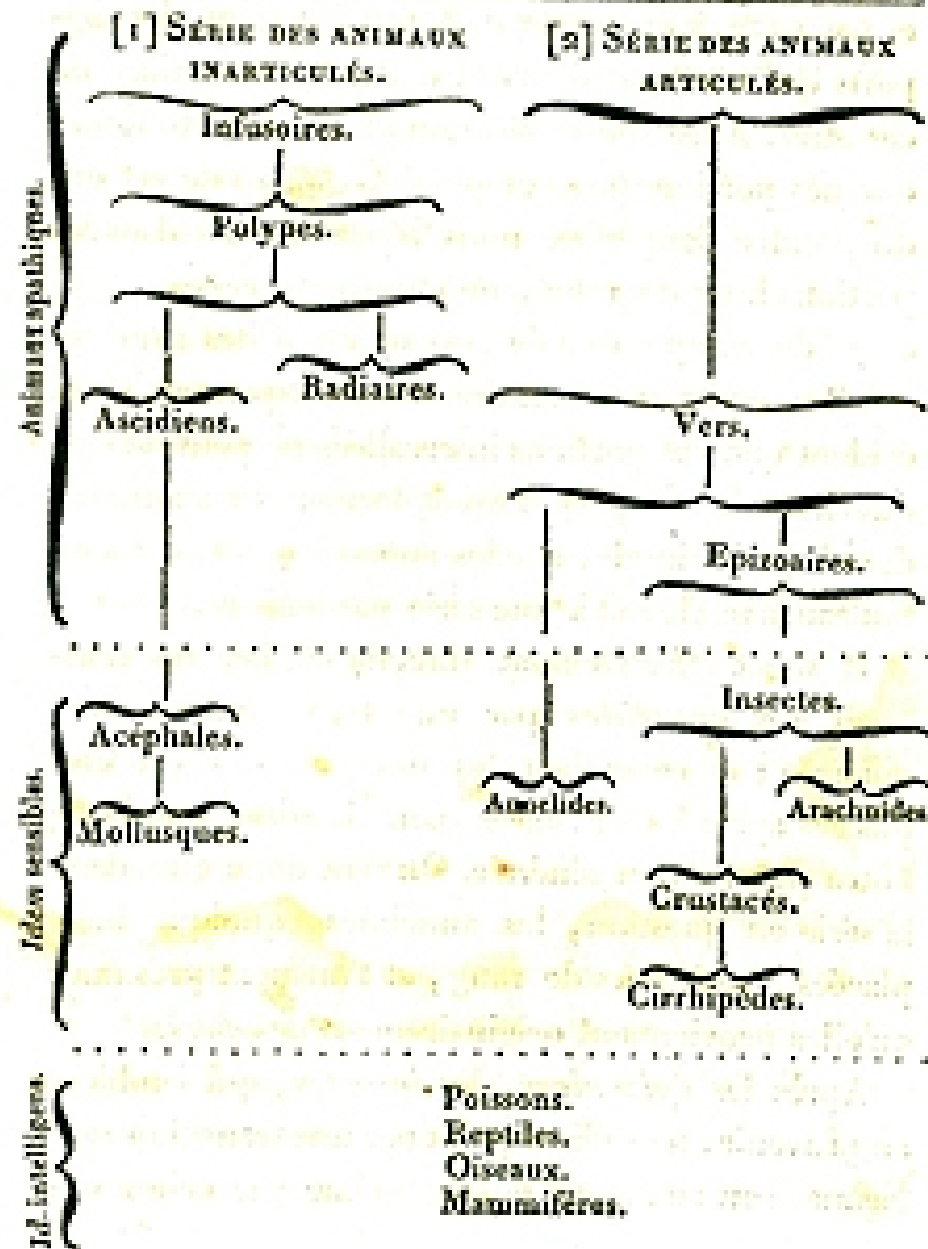
...that would link those fossils
with contemporary fauna!



Aligning his specimens
along temporal lines,

...Lamarck was telling
a completely new natural history!

*ORDRE présumé de la formation des Animaux ,
offrant 2 séries séparées , subramenses.*



All those unknown species
haunting the theories of naturalists...



...were not extinct at all!

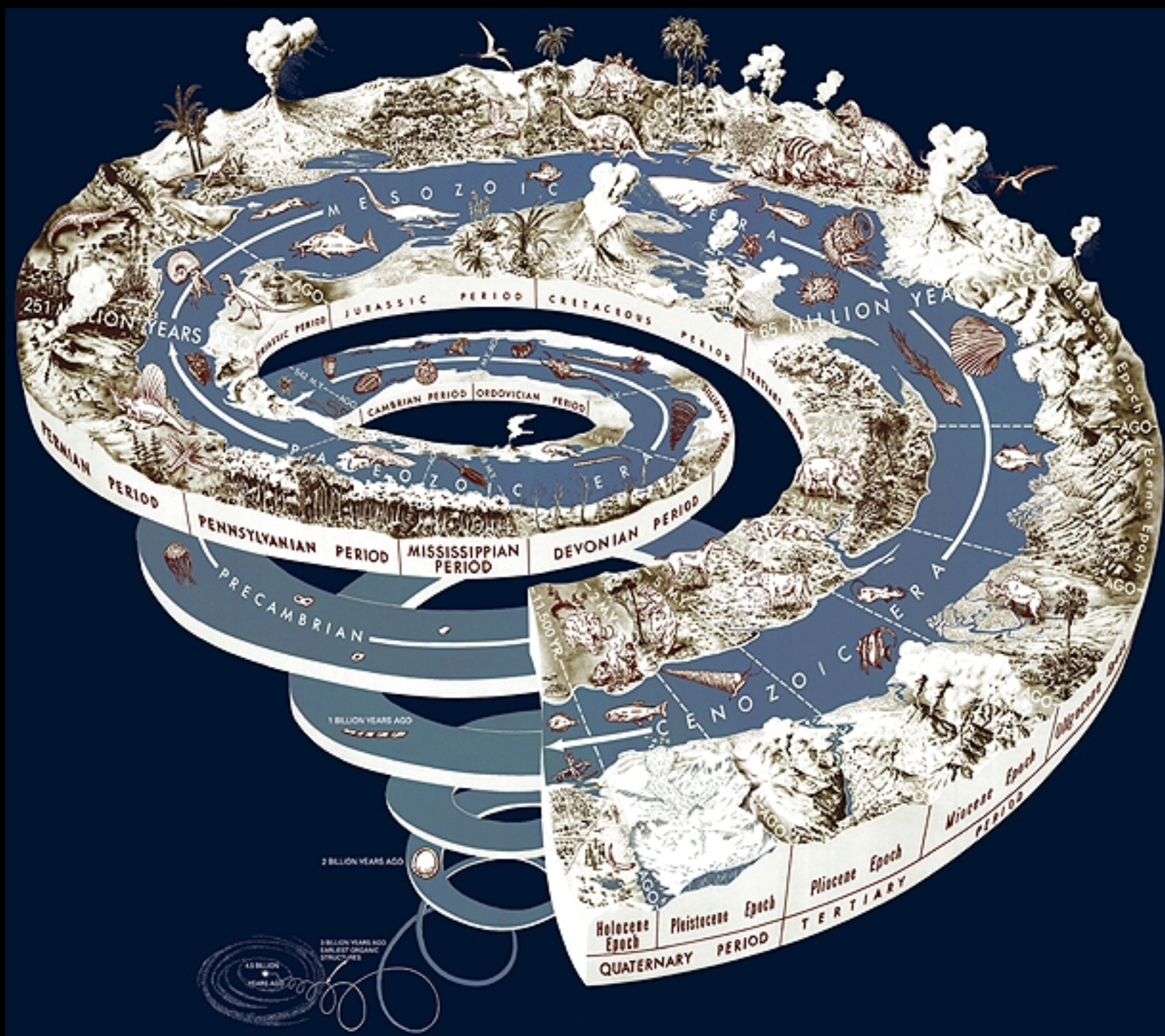
Neither flood, nor catastrophe, nor massacre...



...those haunting forms had "only" been
trans-form-ed over time!



Fossil forms were
the ancestors of today's forms!



It was "only" a matter
of learning to see
those gradual modifications...

...and aligning
the specimens into series...

...they would then exhibit
morphological and evolutionary genealogies.



1949



1950



1951



1952



1953



1954



1955



1956



1957



1958



1959



1960



1961



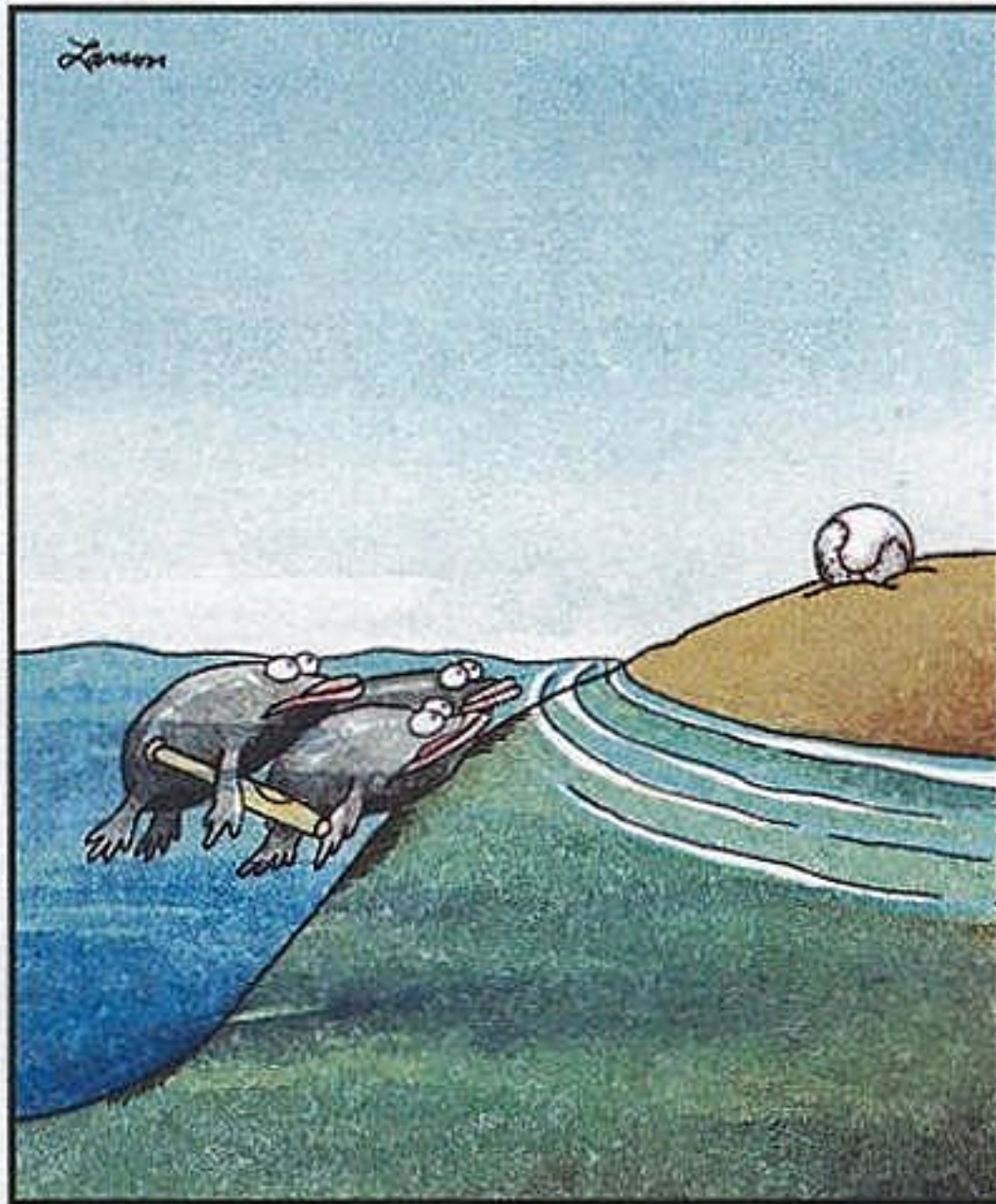
1962



1963

Species could now be understood
as the best balance...

...between optimization for the present
and flexibility for the future.



Great moments in evolution

*"Ceaseless change became
the fundamental fact of Western nature!"*

Stephen Jay Gould, 1979

Even if some continue to argue...



This new theory has led
to new types of "classification systems"...

S Y S T È M E
D E S
ANIMAUX SANS VERTÈBRES,
O U

TABLEAU général des classes, des ordres et des
genres de ces animaux ;

Présentant leurs caractères essentiels et leur distribution, d'après la considération de leurs rapports naturels et de leur organisation, et suivant l'arrangement établi dans les galeries du Muséum d'Hist. Naturelle, parmi leurs dépouilles conservées ;

Précédé du discours d'ouverture du Cours de Zoologie, donné dans le Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle l'an 8 de la République.

PAR J. B. LAMARCK,

De l'Institut National de France, l'un des Professeurs-Administrateurs du Muséum d'Hist. Naturelle, des Sociétés d'Histoire Naturelle, des Pharmaciens et Philomatique de Paris, de celle d'Agriculture de Seine et Oise, etc.



A P A R I S,

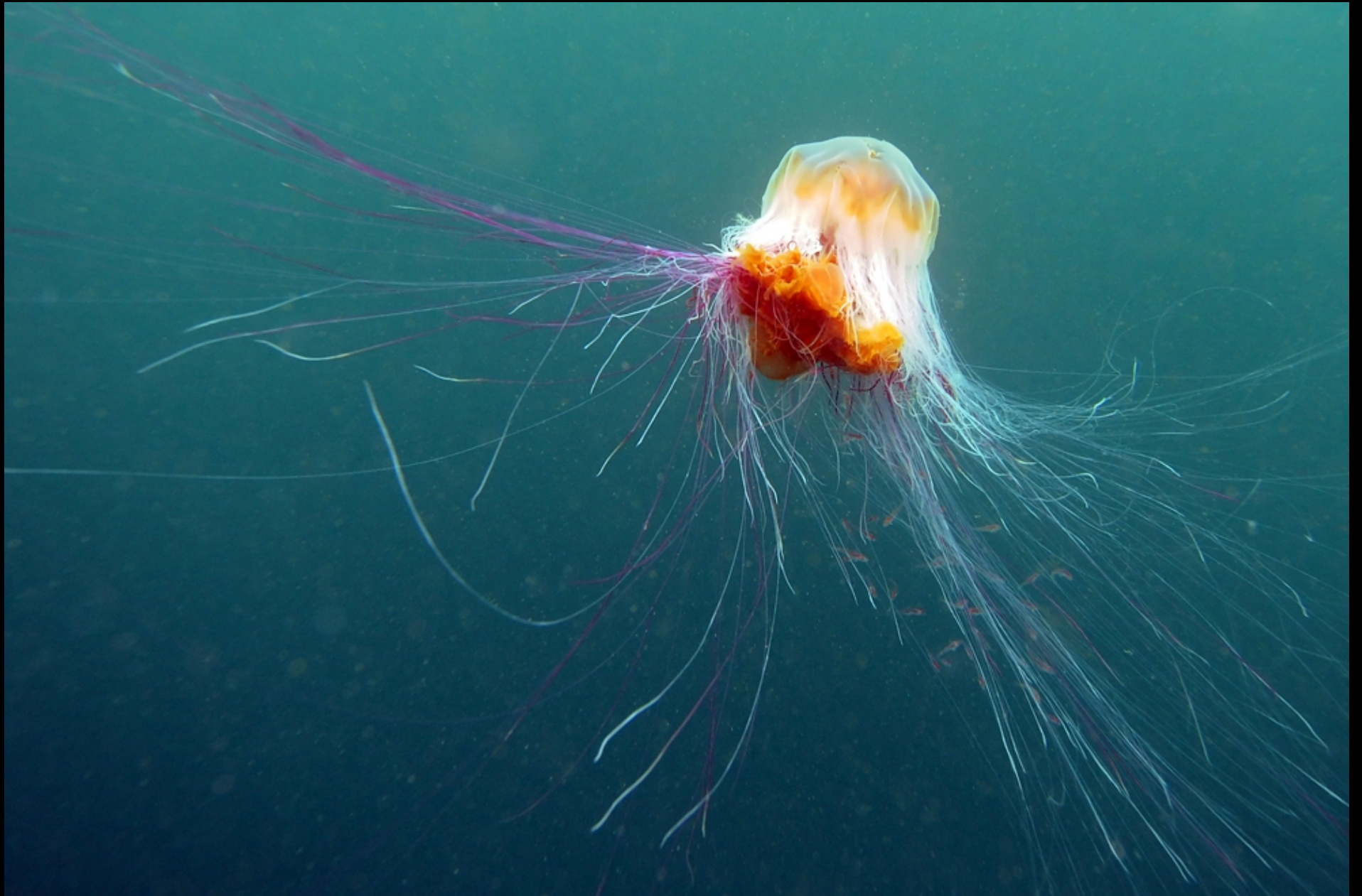
Chez { L'AUTEUR, au Muséum d'Hist. Naturelle ;
DETENVILLE, Libraire, rue du Battoir,
n° 16, quartier de l'Odéon.

AN IX — 1801.

Here are some fragments
of the classification proposed
by Lamarck himself...

First Sub-Division:

"Those which vaguely swim in water"...











Second Sub-Division:

"Those which crawl or creep on their belly"...







Second Section:

"Those which are permanently
covered with a true shell"...

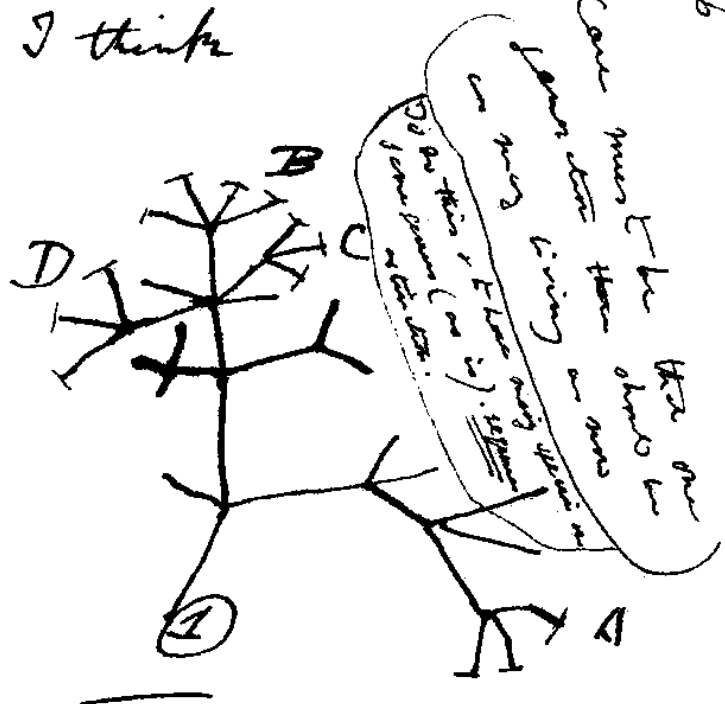






But the classificatory systems themselves
have undergone "ceaseless change"...

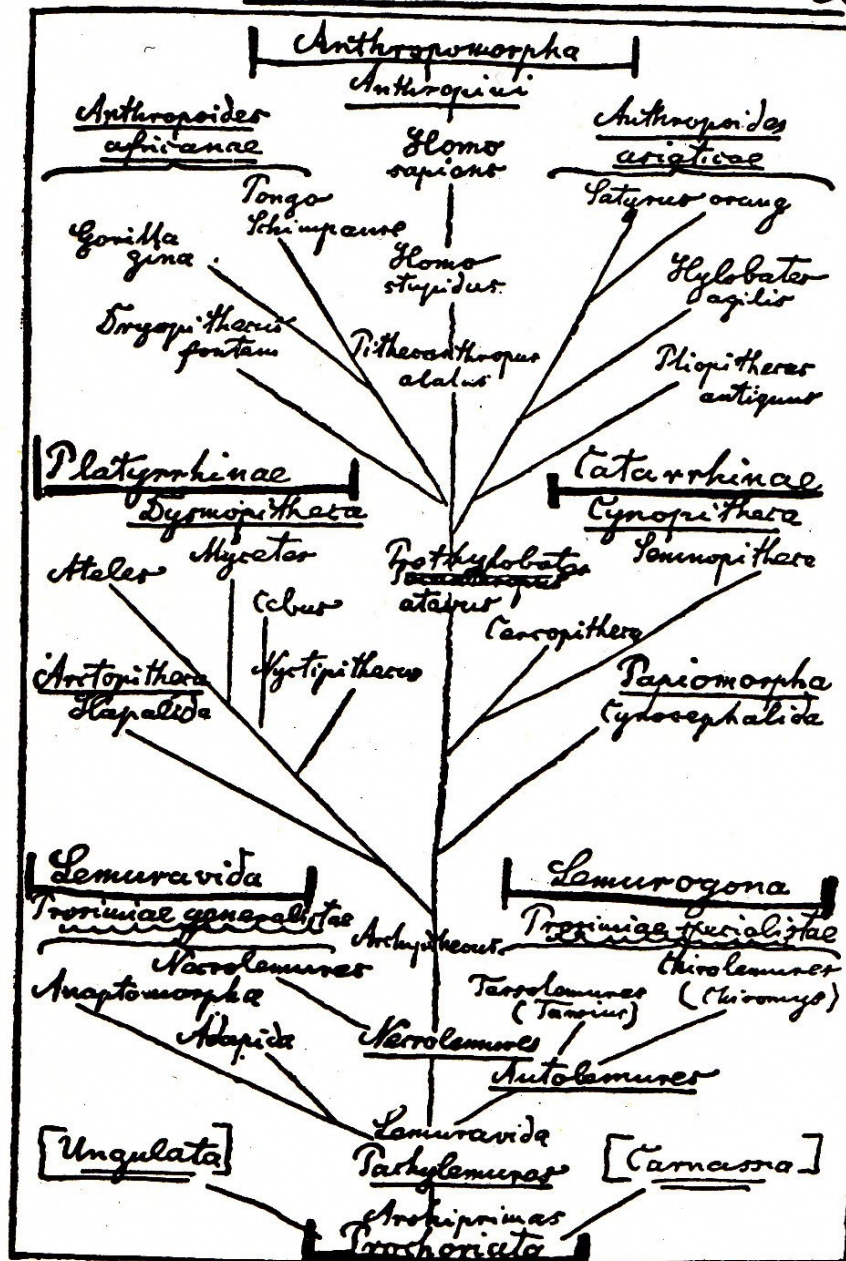
I think

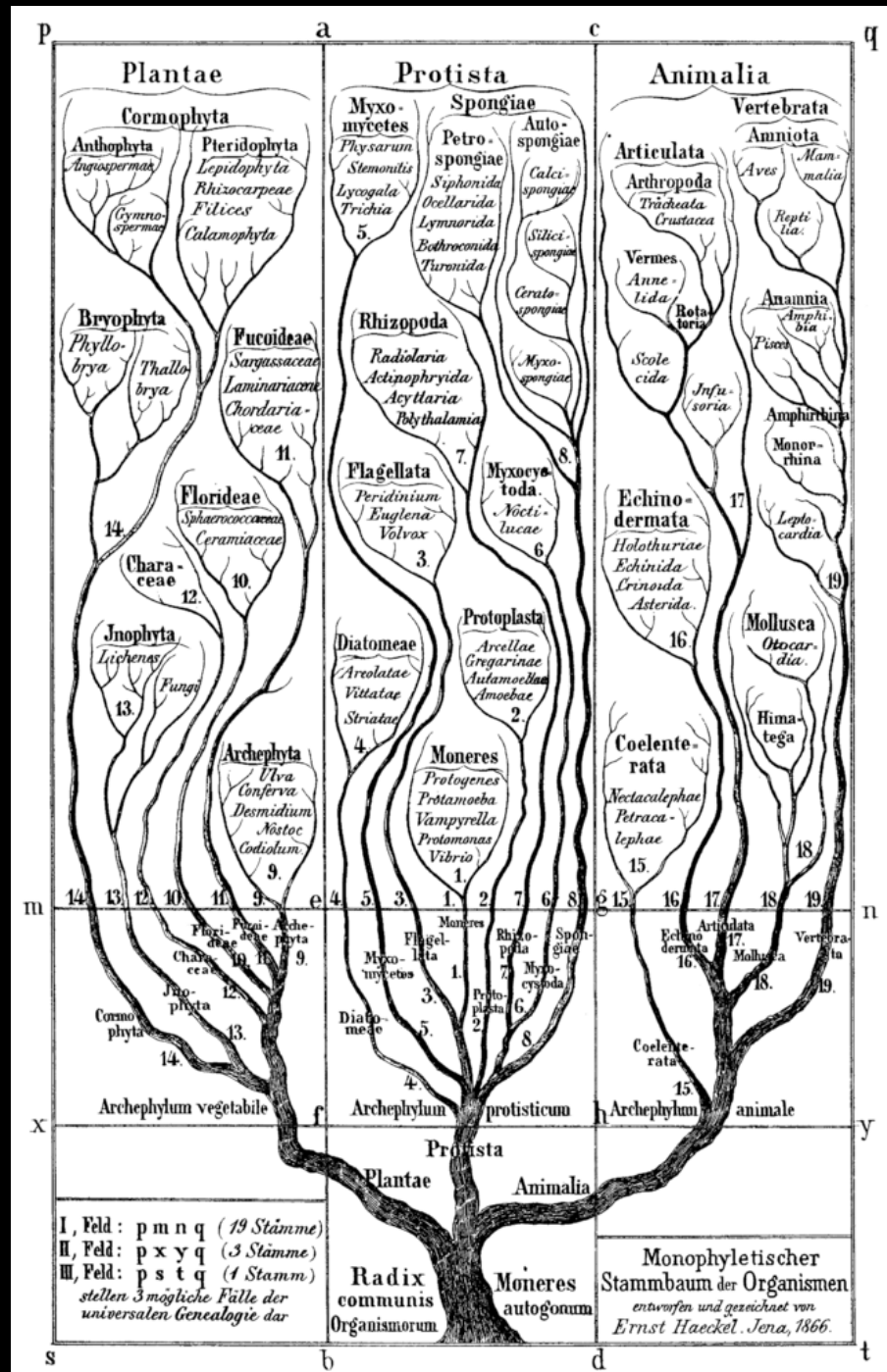


Then between A & B. various
 sort of relation. C & B. The
 first gradation, B & D
 rather greater distinction
 Then genus would be
 formed. - binary relation

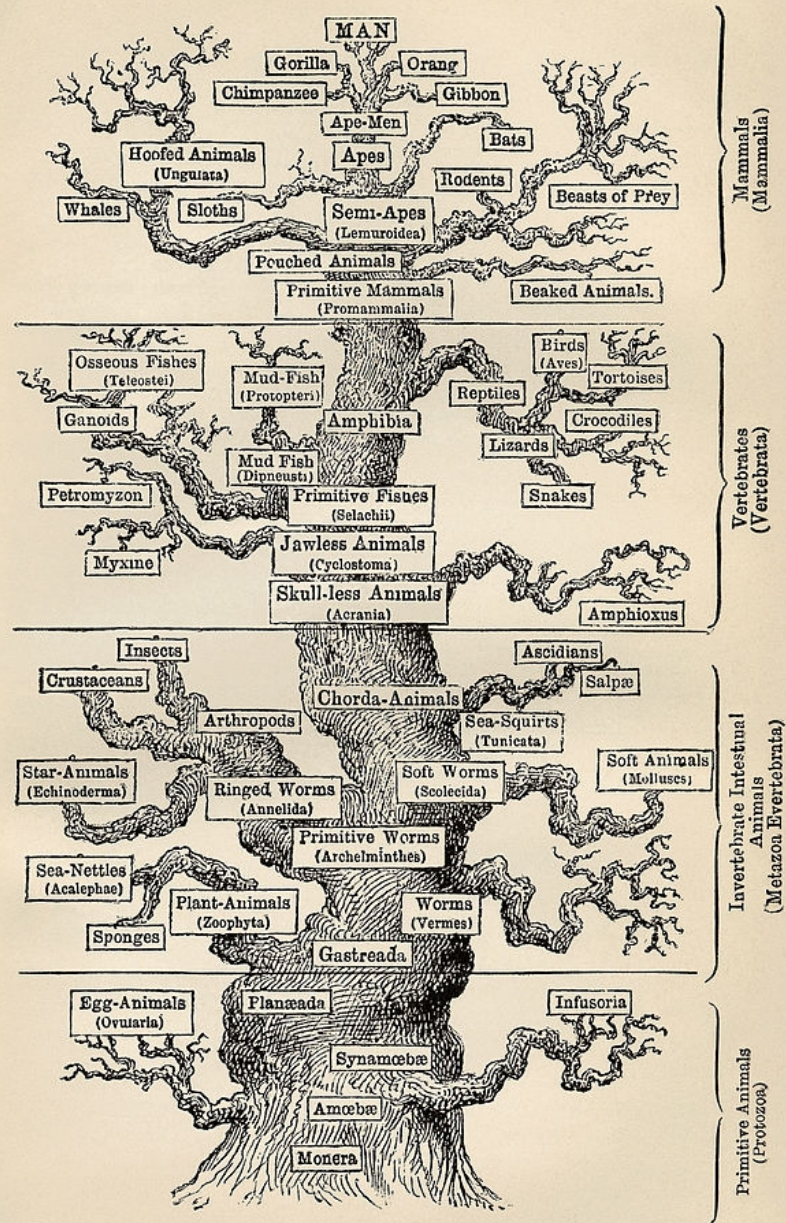
From the first sketch of Charles Darwin,
over diverse attempts of Ernest Haeckel...

§ 437. Stammbaum der Primaten.

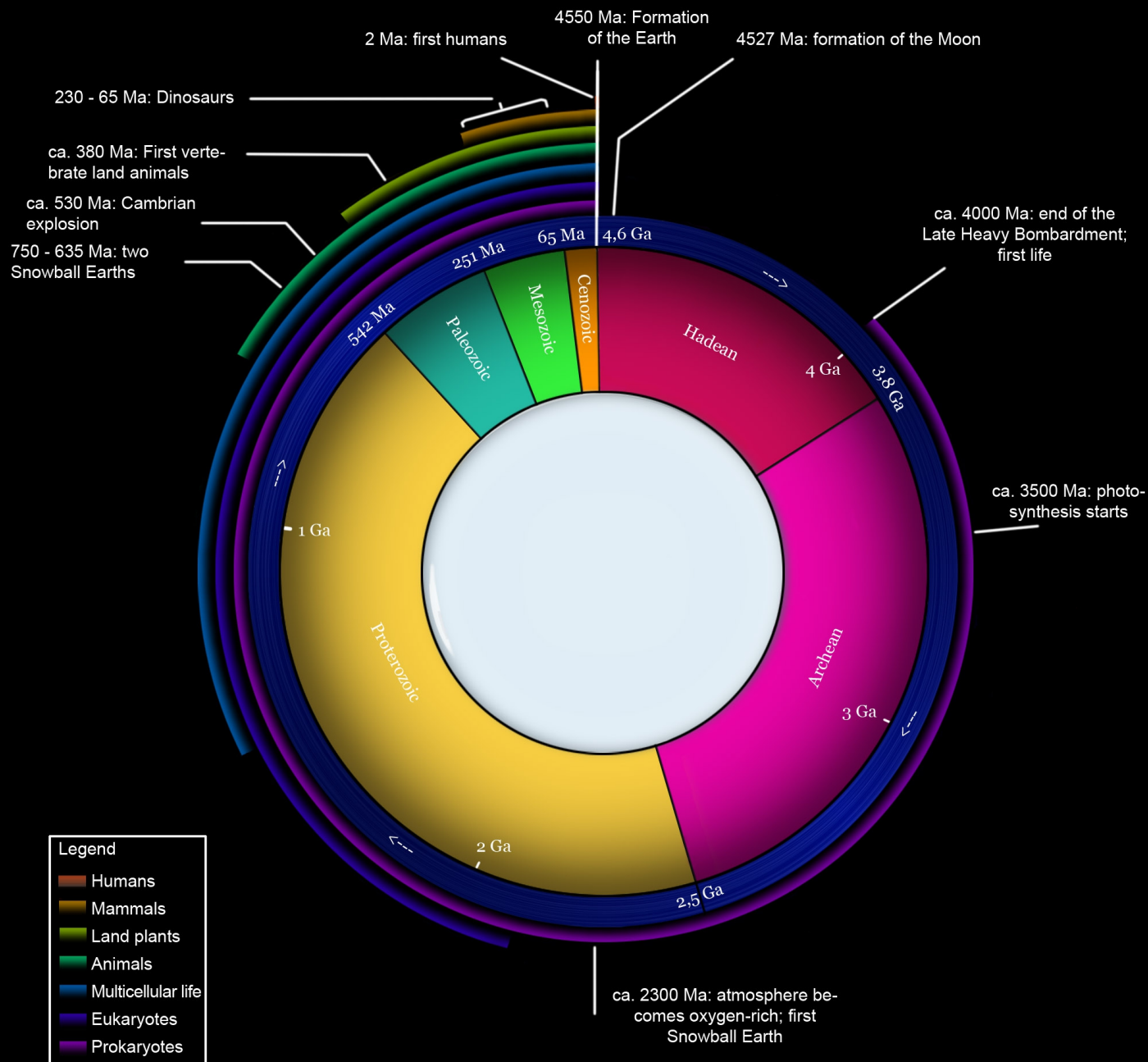


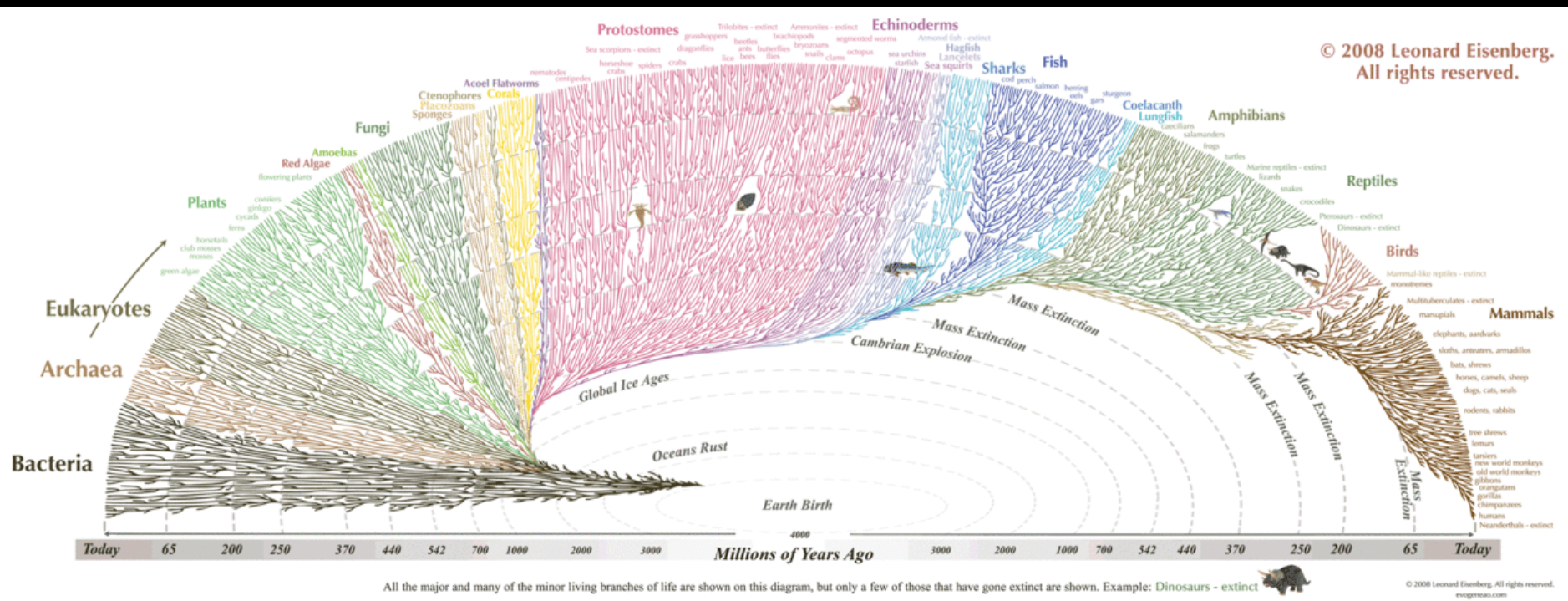


PEDIGREE OF MAN.



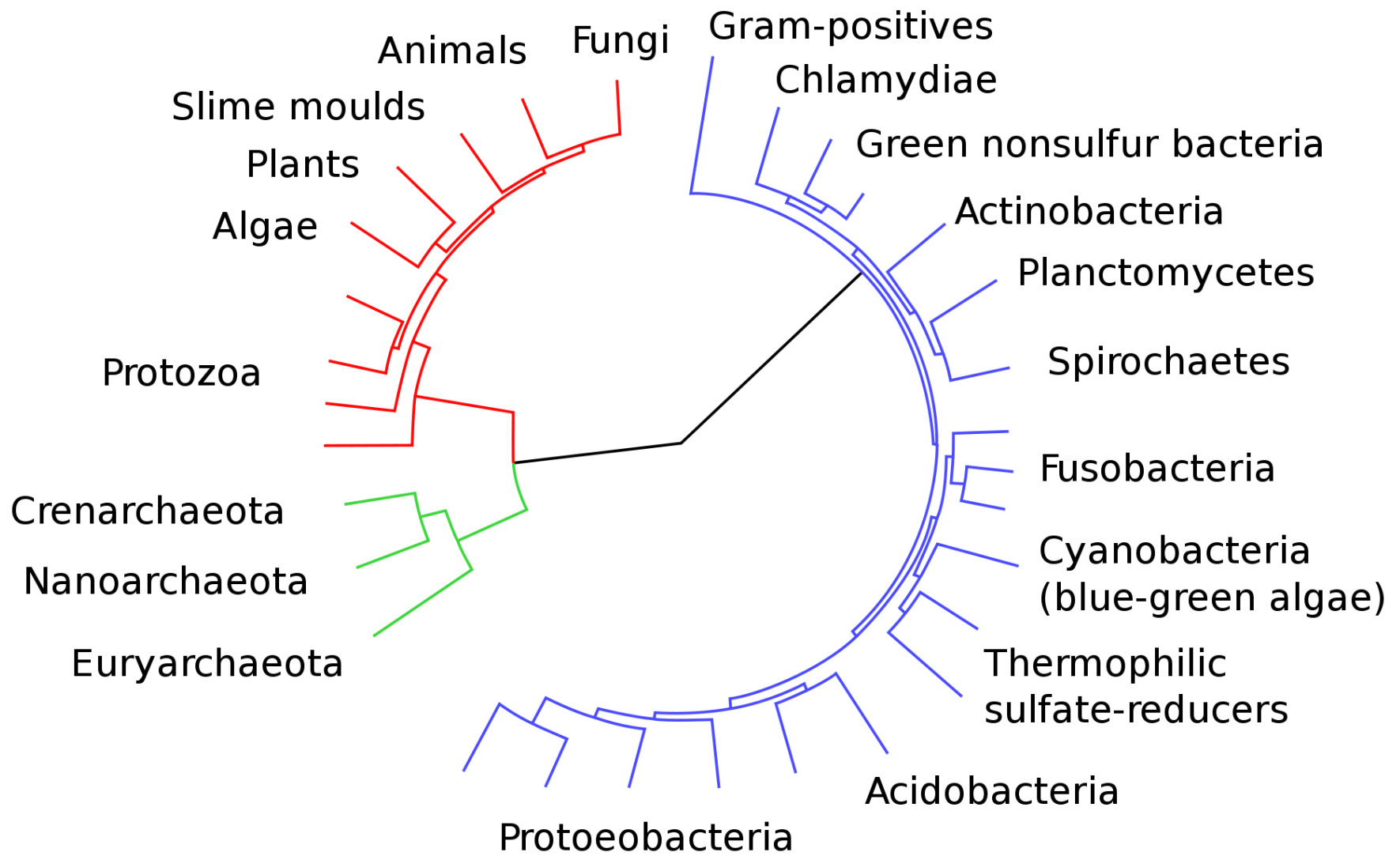
...to the last elaborated
and contemporary representations:

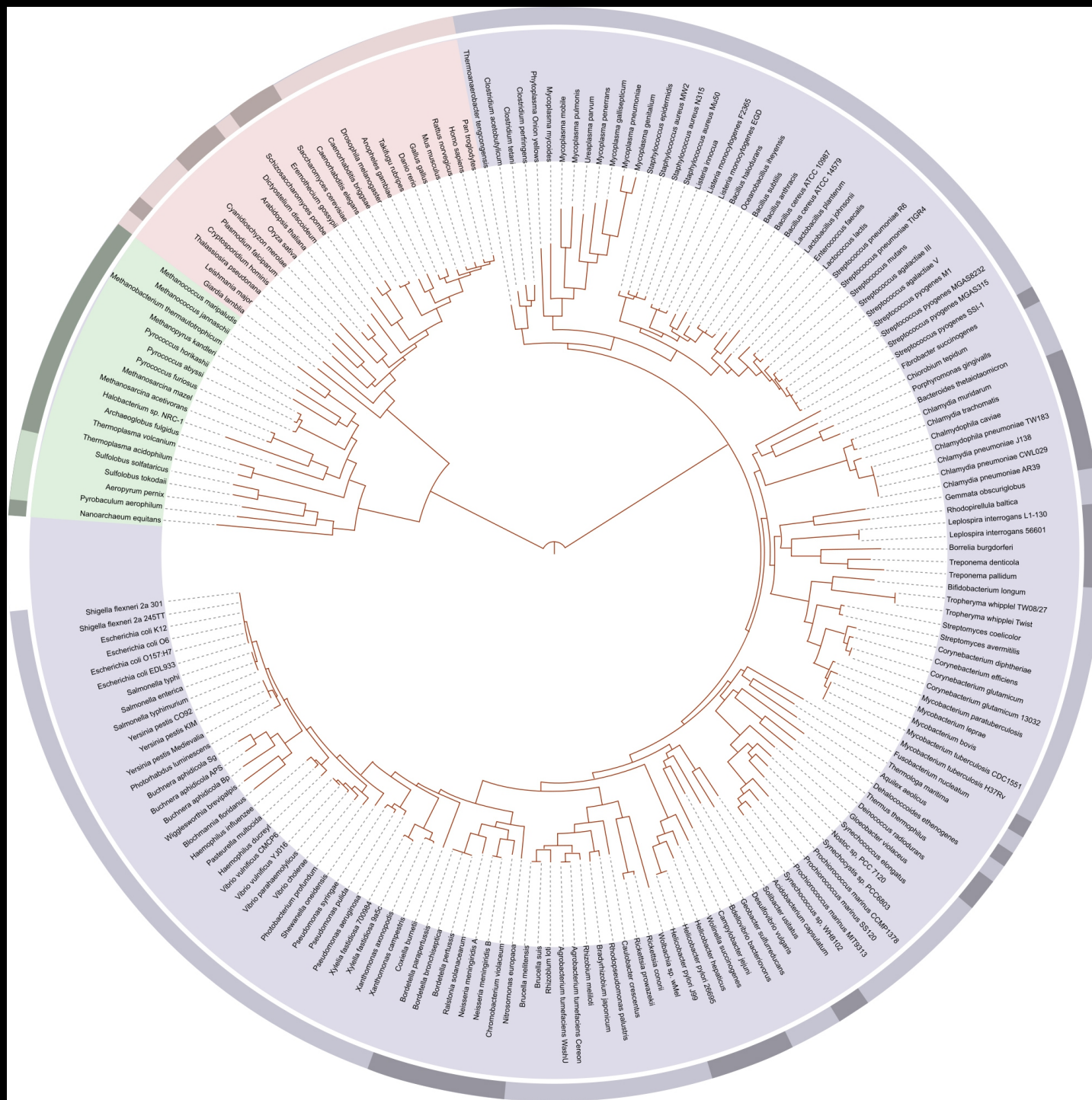




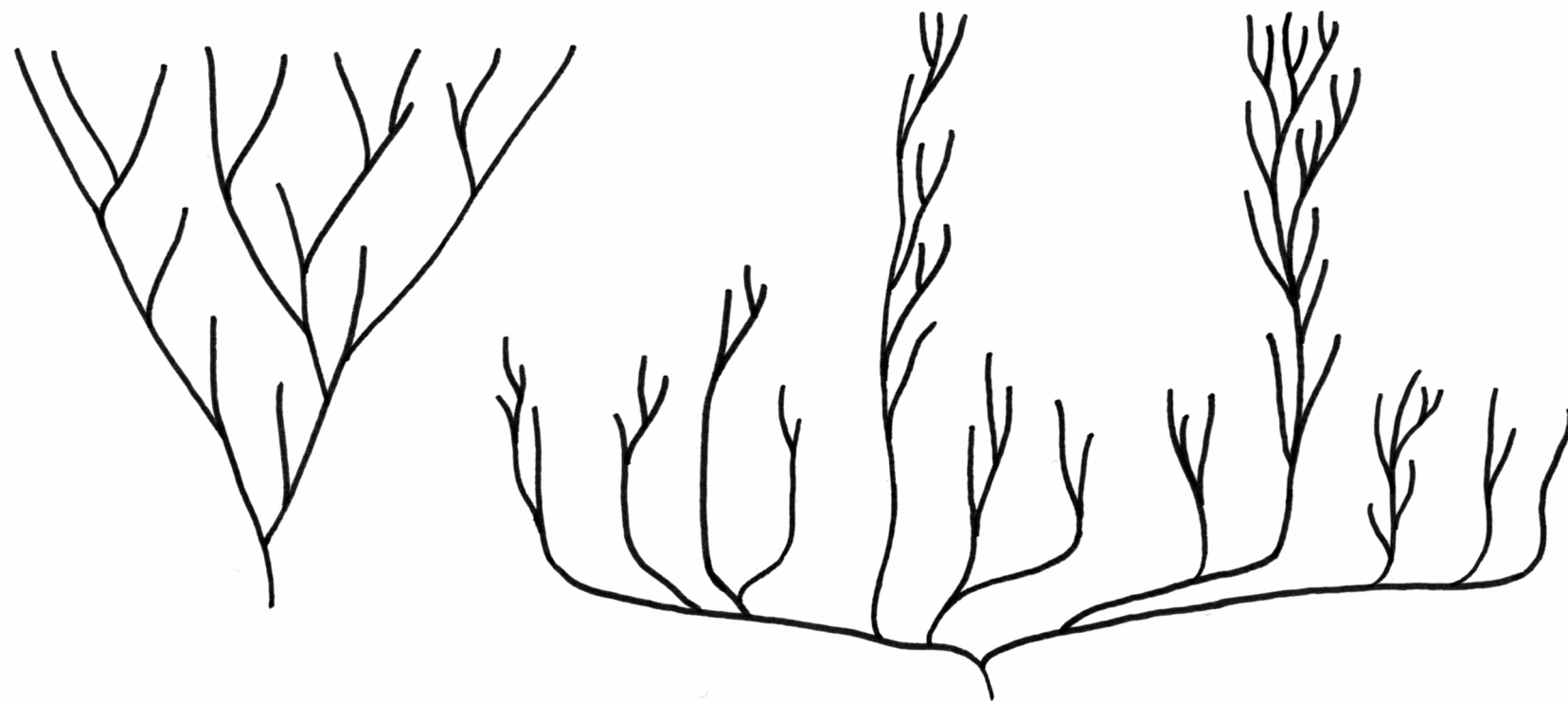
All the major and many of the minor living branches of life are shown on this diagram, but only a few of those that have gone extinct are shown. Example: **Dinosaurs - extinct**

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evogeneao.com



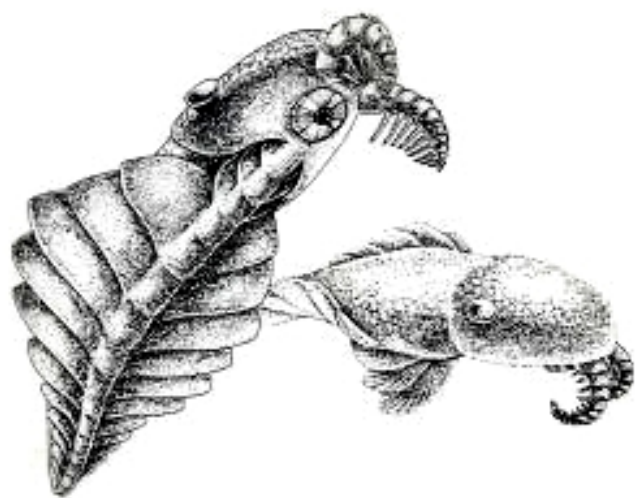
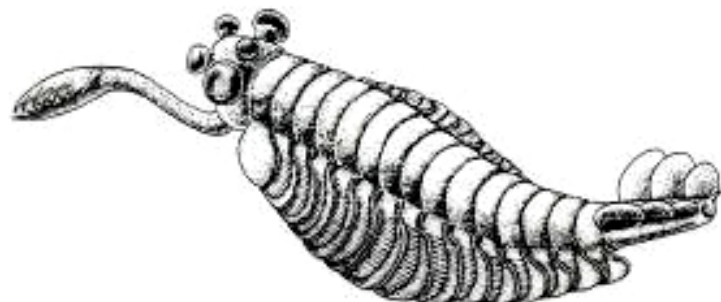
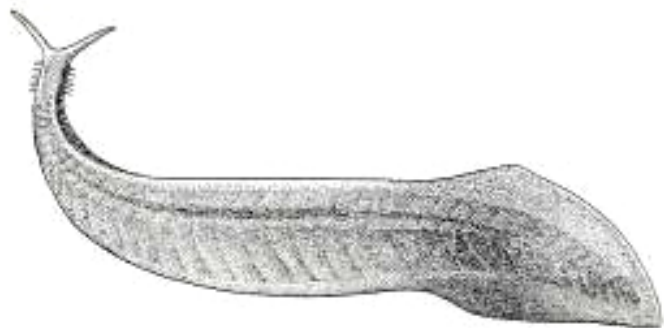
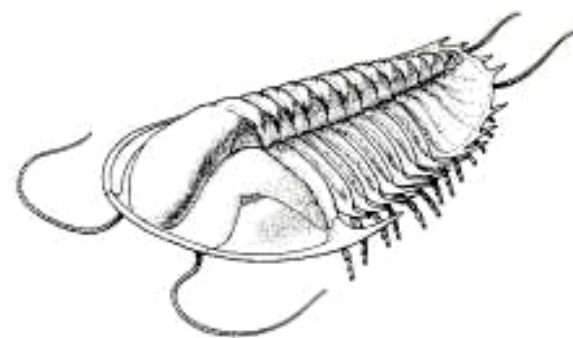
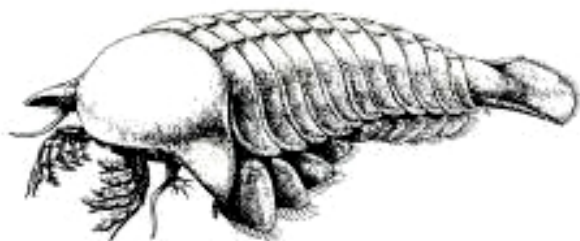
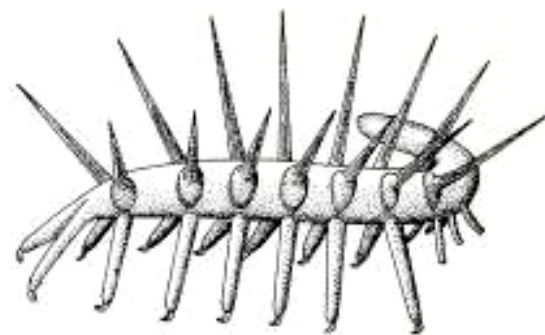
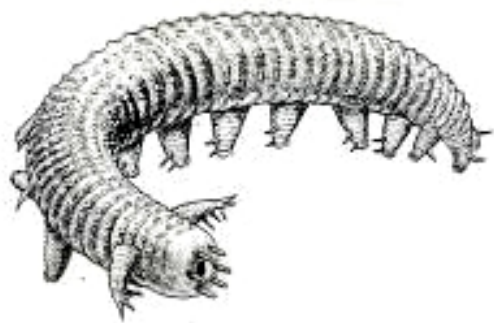


But one must be careful:
it's not only a question of representation!



These two drawings tell us
a completely different story...

...about the "wonderful life" forms
encountered in the Burgess Shale Formation!



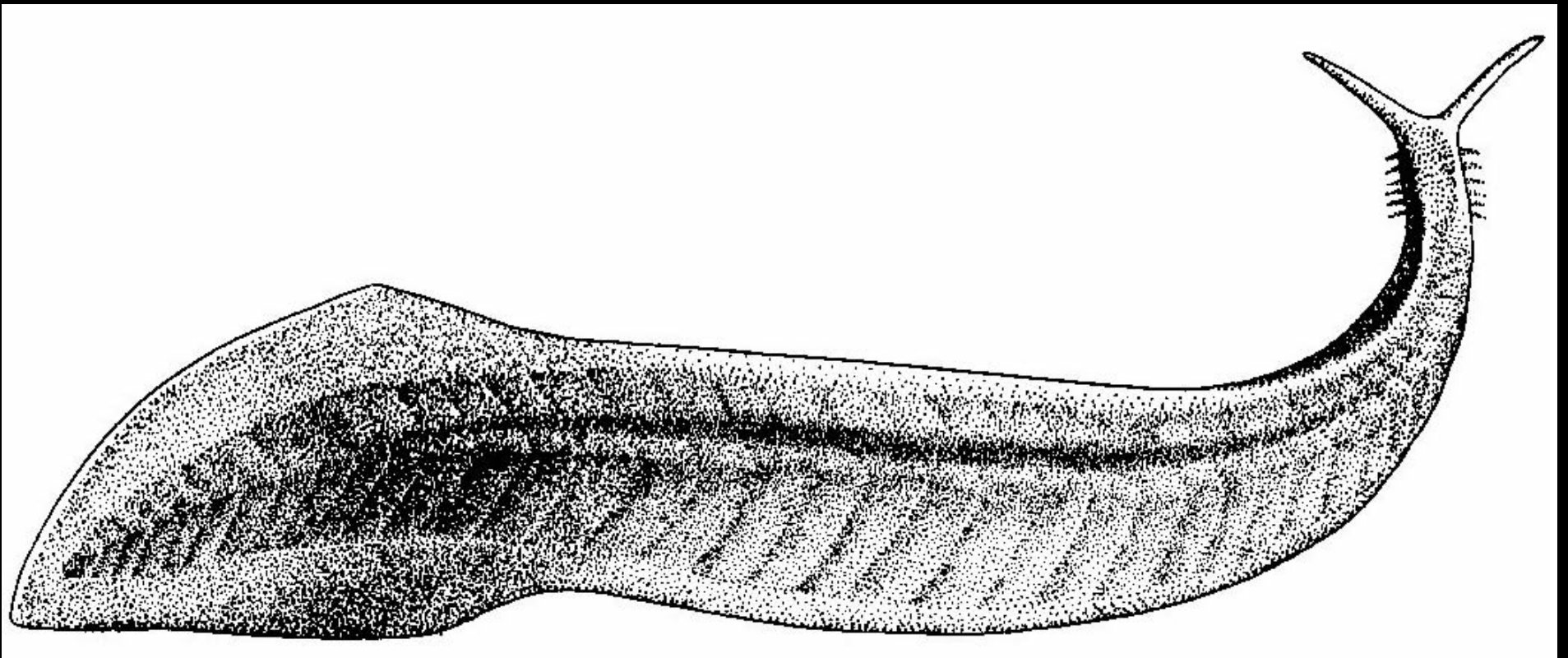
Are these: ancestral forms of creatures
which belong to our own lineage...

...or freaks,
most of them extincted with no descendants?

And this one:

Pikaia gracilens

of which only 16 fossil specimens are known...



...and who is considered
to be the ancestor of all the Vertebrates!

M. 87.

Fig. 1.

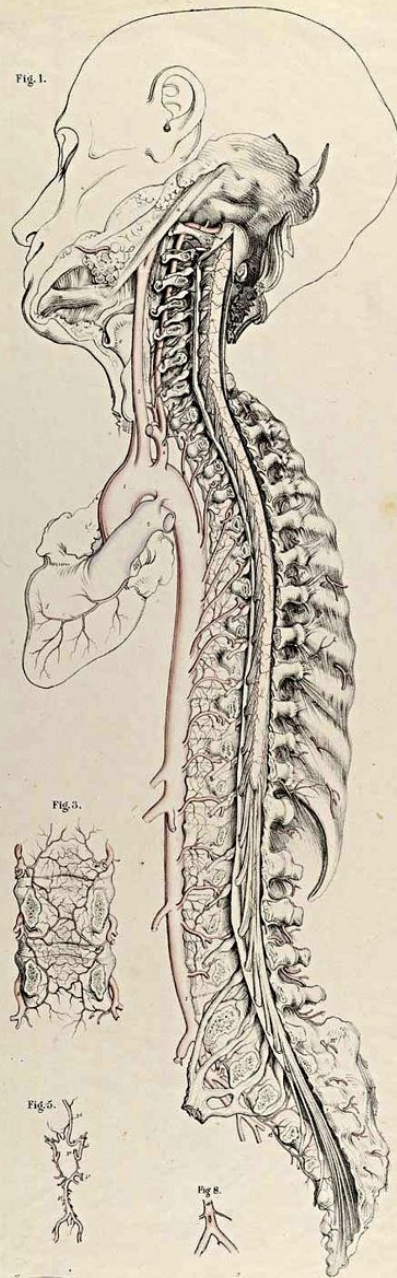


Fig. 2.

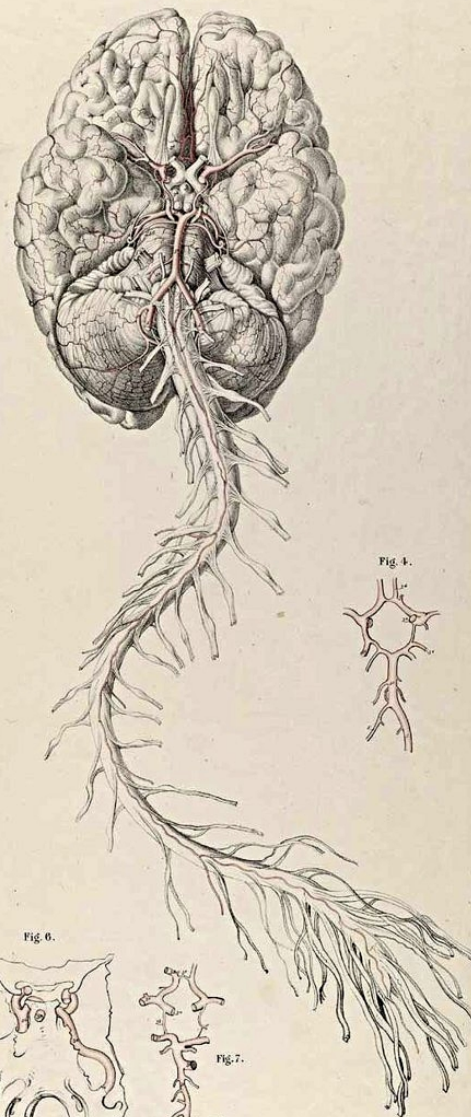


Fig. 4.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 8.



Fig. 6.

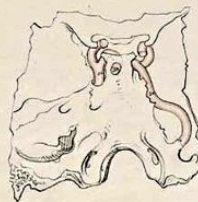


Fig. 7.

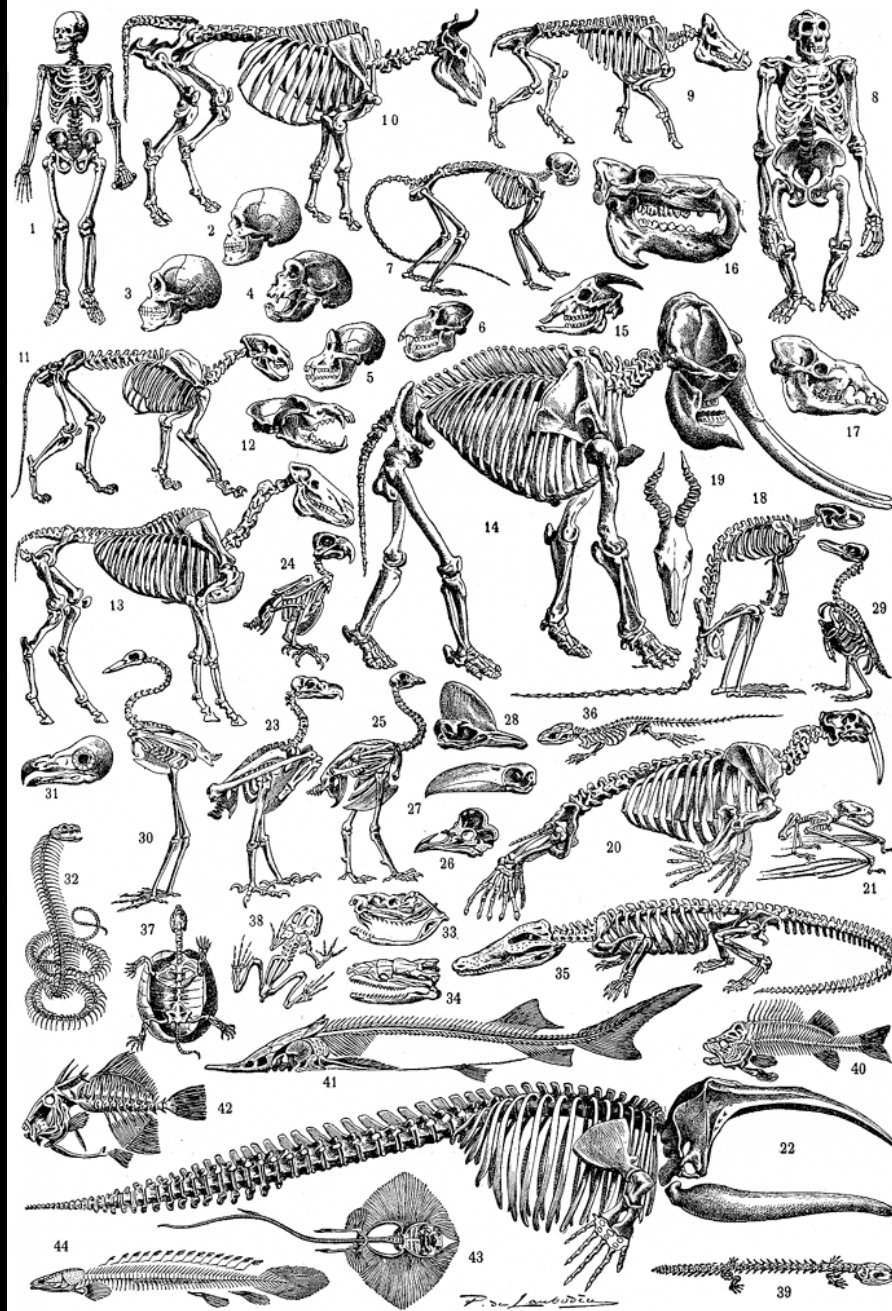


Joseph M. Smith

London: Taylor & Walton, Upper Gower Street.

Printed by J. H. Smith, in the City of London.

How to honor and recount
his/her unbelievable success story?



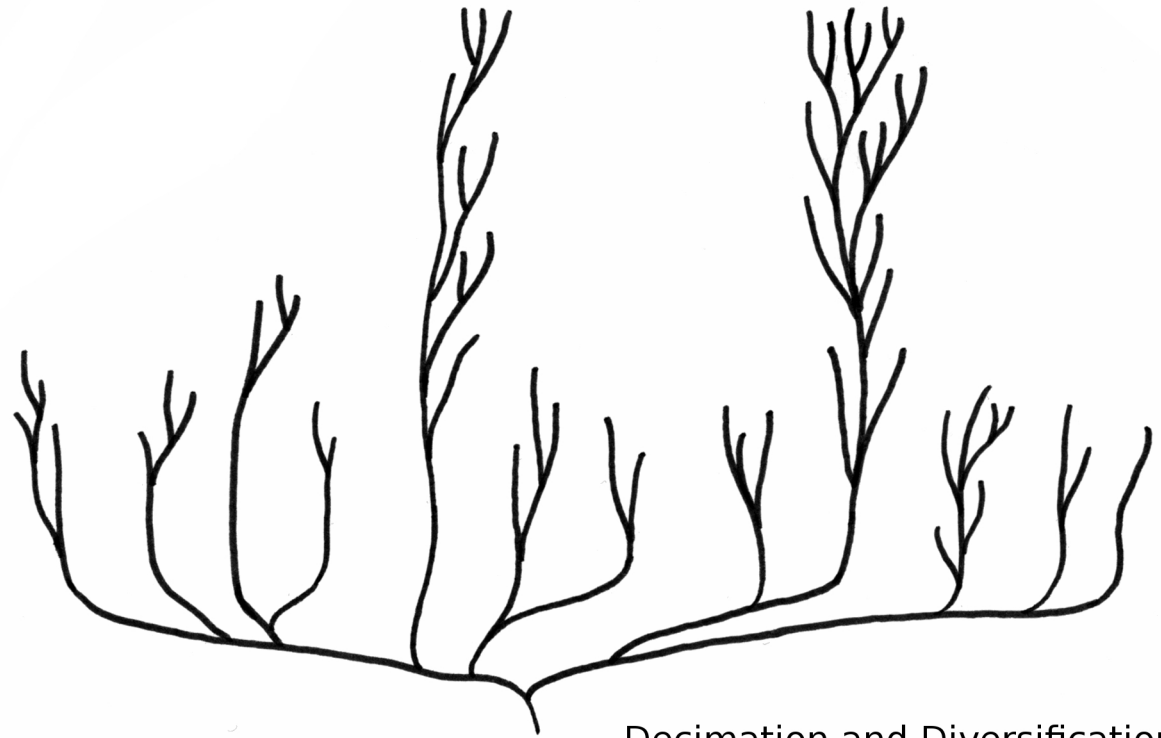
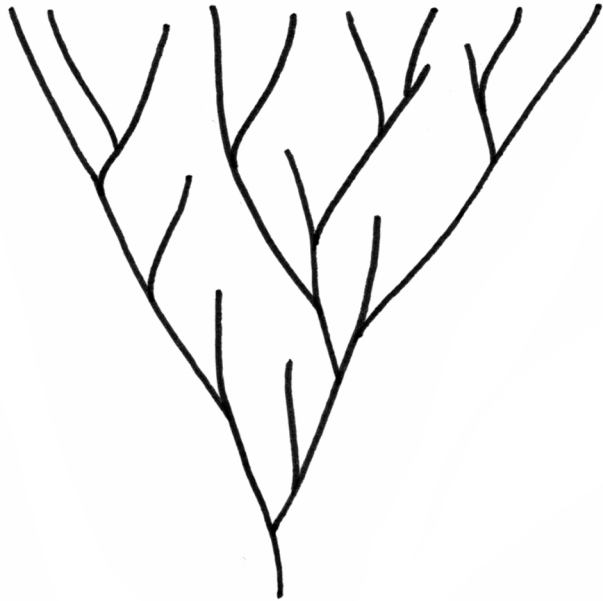
SQUELÈTES : Mammifères : 1. Homme. — 2. Crâne d'Européen. — 3. D'Américain. — 4. Fossile, de la Chapelle-aux-Saints. — 5. Chimpanzé. — 6. Cynocéphale. — 7. Scénopithecus. — 8. Gorille. — 9. Sanglier. — 10. Boeuf. — 11. Lion. — 12. Loup. — 13. Cheval. — 14. Éléphant. — 15. Chèvre. — 16. Hippopotame. — 17. Chamois. — 18. Kangourou. — 19. Antilope. — 20. Morse. — 21. Vampire. — 22. Baleine. — Oiseaux : 23. Aigle. — 24. Perroquet. — 25. Poule. — 26. Coq (coupe du crâne). — 27. Toucan. — 28. Cascar. — 29. Pingouin. — 30. Grue. — 31. Effraie. — Reptiles : 32. Naja. — 33. Crotale. — 34. Boa. — 35. Crocodile. — 36. Léopard. — 37. Tortue. — Batraciens : 38. Grenouille. — 39. Ménépompé. — Poissons : 40. Perche. — 41. Esturgeon. — 42. Baliste. — 43. Raie. — 44. Polyptère.

By a chronicle of the Hazard?

A sketch controlled by pure Determinism?

Or by counting a tale
of intertwined events and contingencies?

The Cone of Increasing Diversity



Decimation and Diversification

However, all those systems
do have a common goal:

...to establish
evolutionary kinship between species.

LES ANIMAUX DE LA FERME



CHAROLAIS



CAMELINE



FRIESIAN



MASERATI



FRIESIAN



JERSEY



LANDRACE



NORMANDY



DUTCH



SHORTHORN



DEVON



FRIESIAN



FRIESIAN



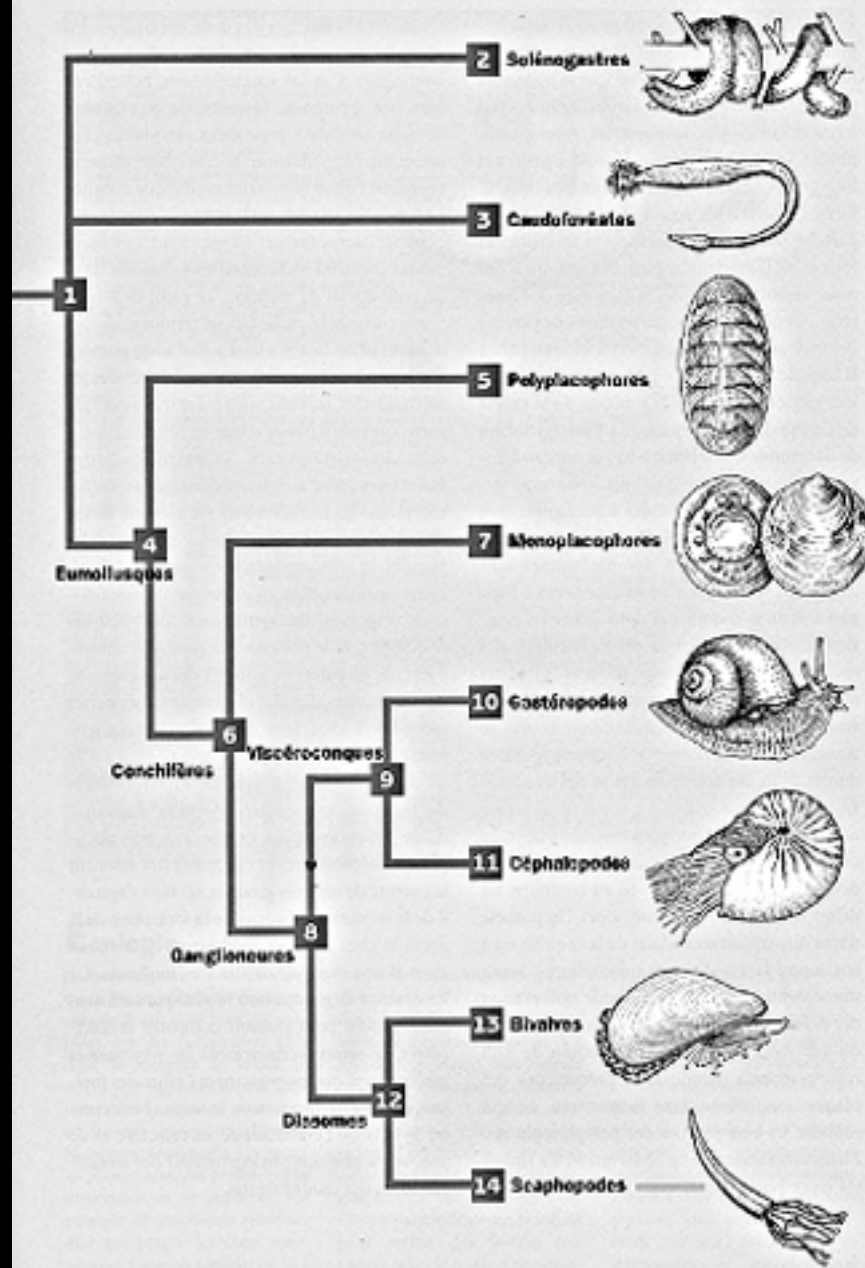
SHORTHORN



FRIESIAN

For instance: the ancestors
of the 130,000 contemporary mollusk species...

Mollusques





Helix

Helix

Helix

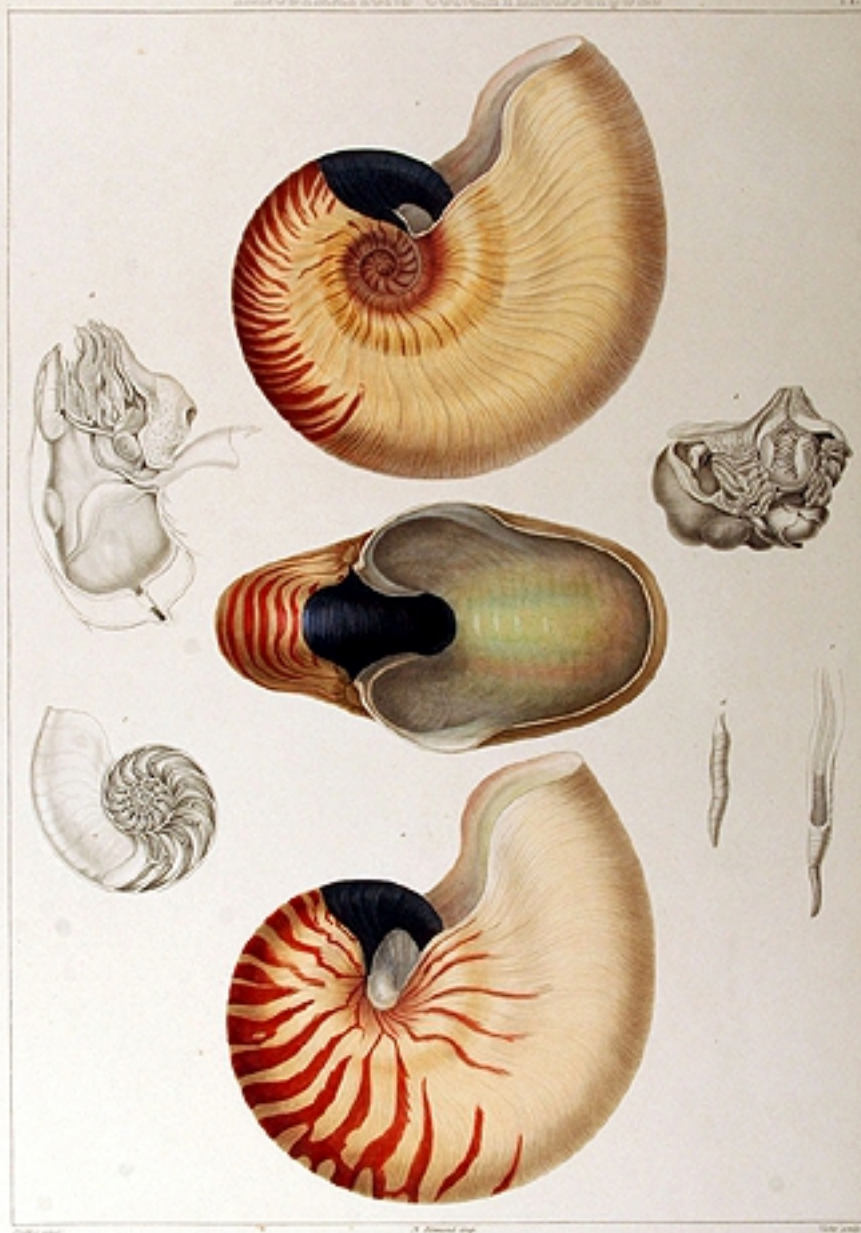
HELIX

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <i>H. Vivida. Lamarck.</i> | 1. <i>H. Mammilla. Lamarck.</i> |
| 2. <i>H. Giguera. Lamarck.</i> | 2. <i>H. Pulex. Lamarck.</i> |
| 3. <i>H. Polyzonata. Lamarck.</i> | 3. <i>H. Liolella. Lamarck.</i> |
| 4. <i>H. Murex. Lamarck.</i> | |



C. ANODONTA, Deshayesi

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <i>A. lymnaea</i> | 17. <i>A. fragilis</i> |
| 2. <i>A. excisa</i> | 18. <i>A. papyracea</i> |
| 3. <i>A. fucicola</i> | 19. <i>A. lunda</i> |
| 4. <i>A. parthenocera</i> | |



C. NATHUS. Lith.

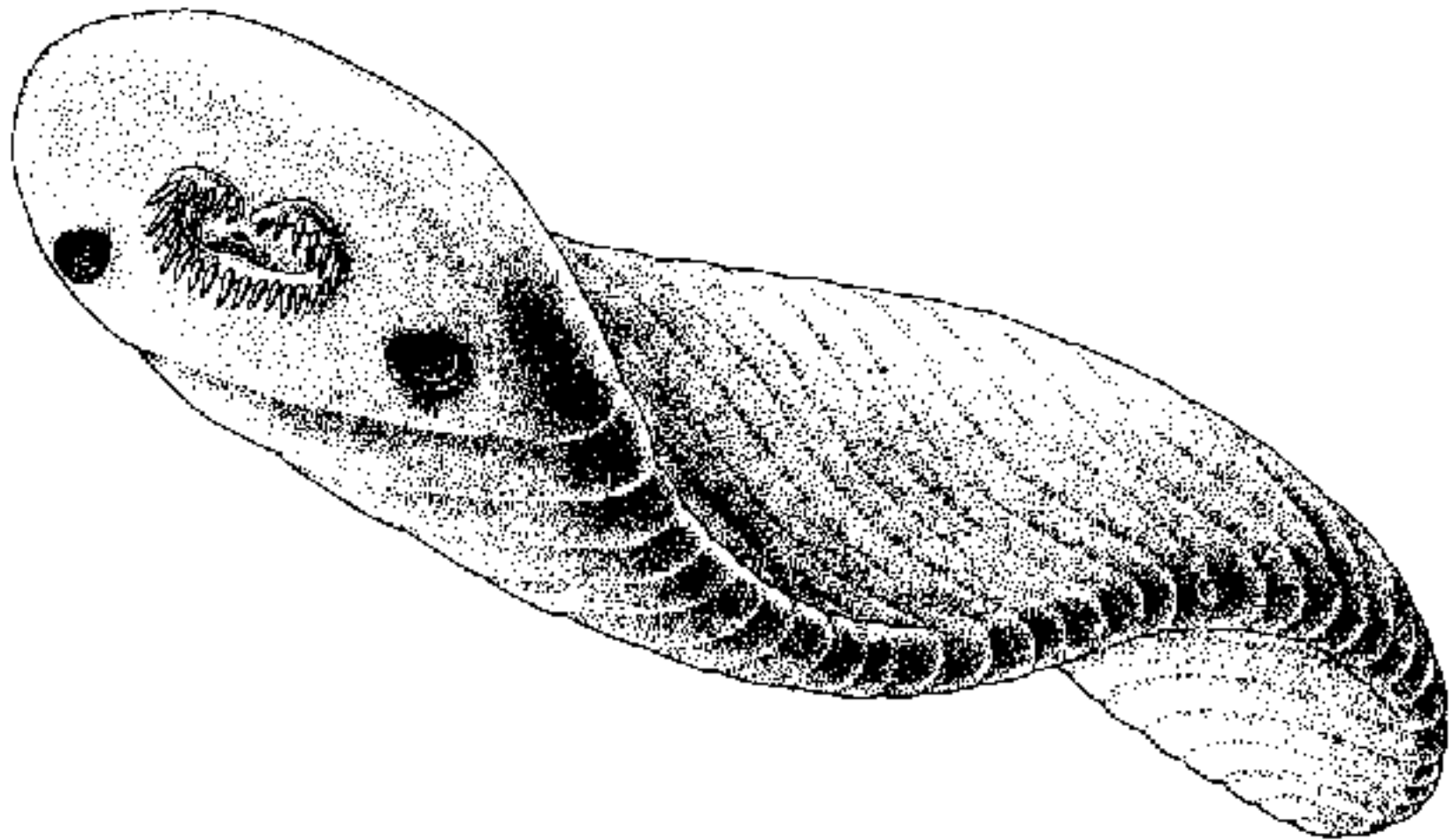
S. Endlicher. Lith.

N. Pons. Lith.

...would have appeared
500,000,000 years ago.

Also found in the Burgess Shale Area:

Odontogriphus
(literally "toothed riddle")...



...considered as the best
candidate ancestor of all mollusks!

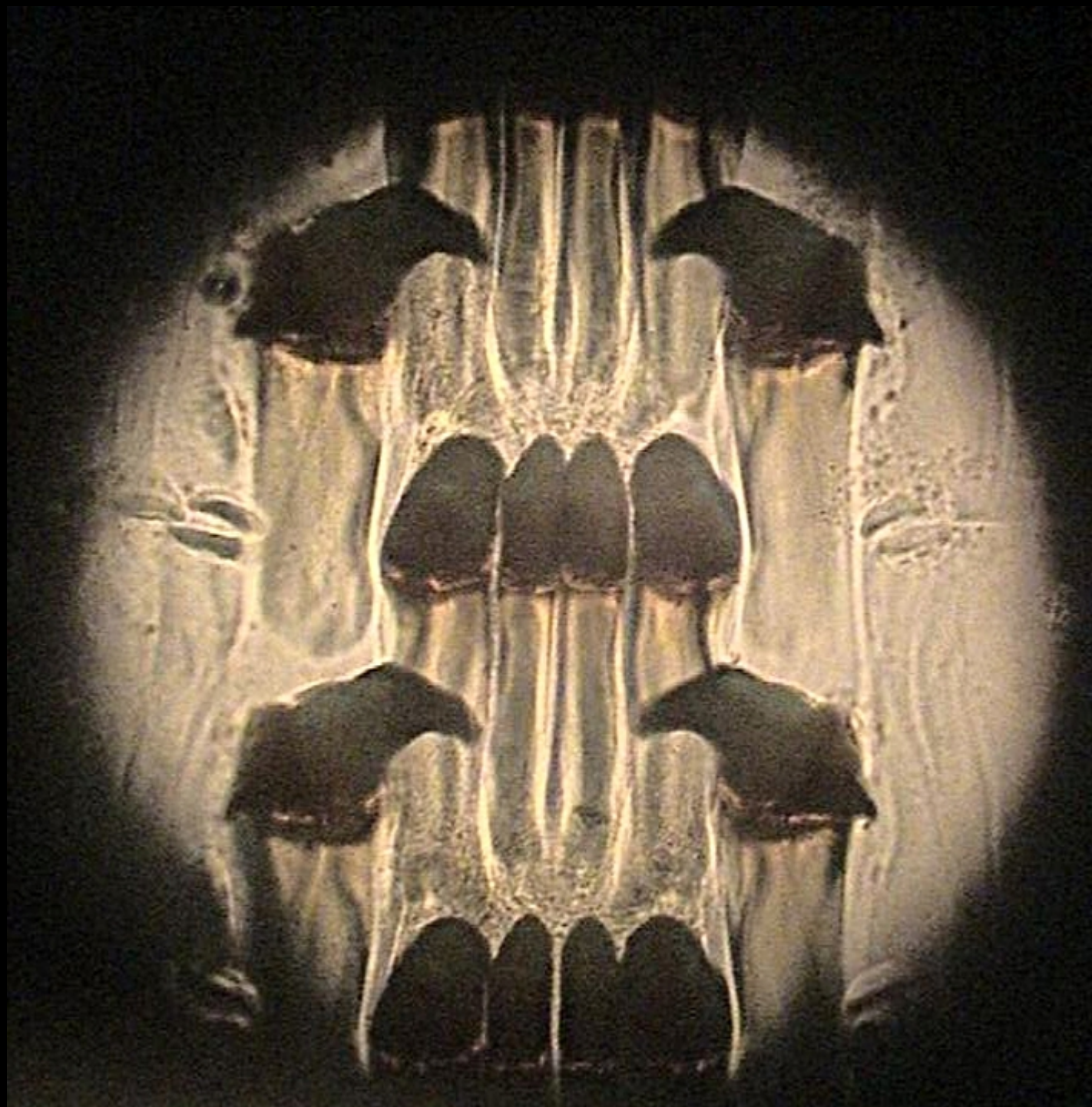
A physiological feature
serves as the signature of this emergence...



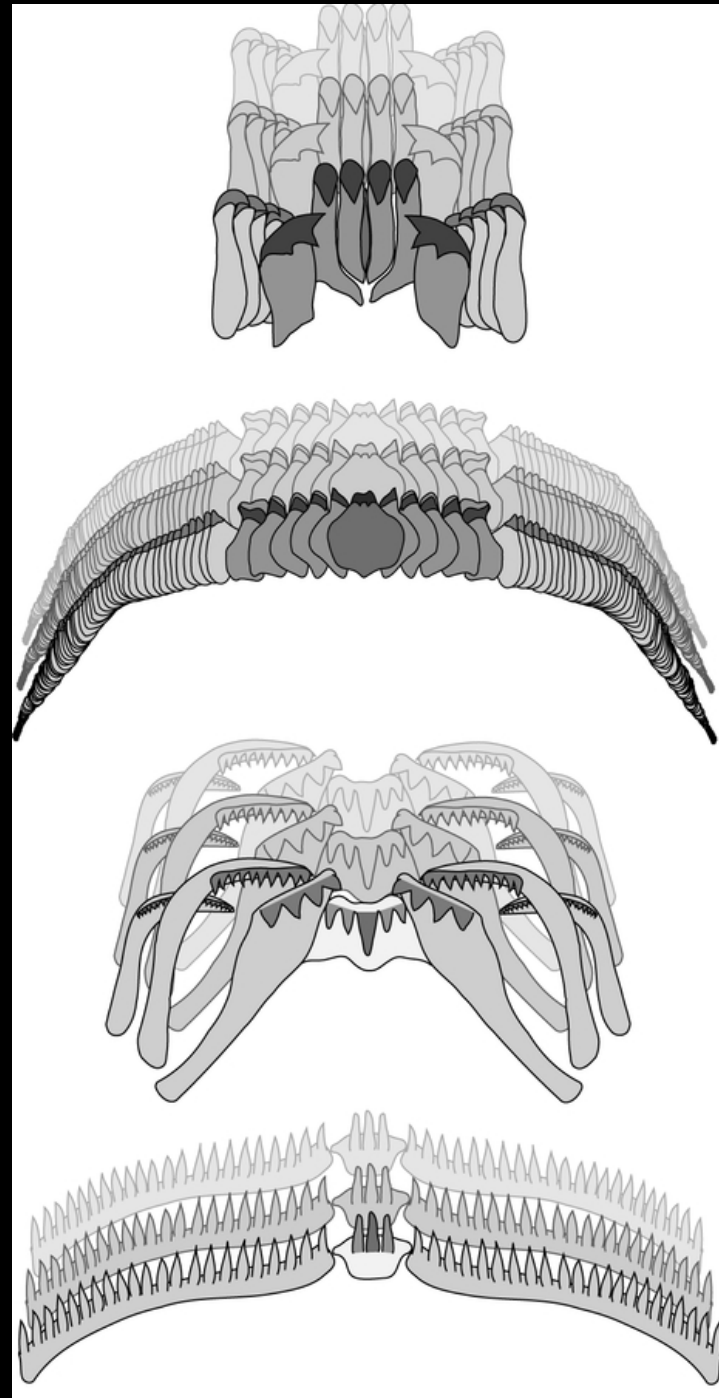
...these ancestors are the first organisms
that do no longer swallow their food,

...the first to have invented
the art of grazing!

All mollusks have a "radula"
- a kind of raspy tongue...







...they are thus able to get hold
of their food by tearing off parts of it.

A quite minute change!

But at the level of material availability...

...this equipment enabled mollusks
to get access to new sources of nourishment!



All gardeners
know something about that!

GROWING SUCCESS

SLUG STOP™

**NON-TOXIC
GRANULES**



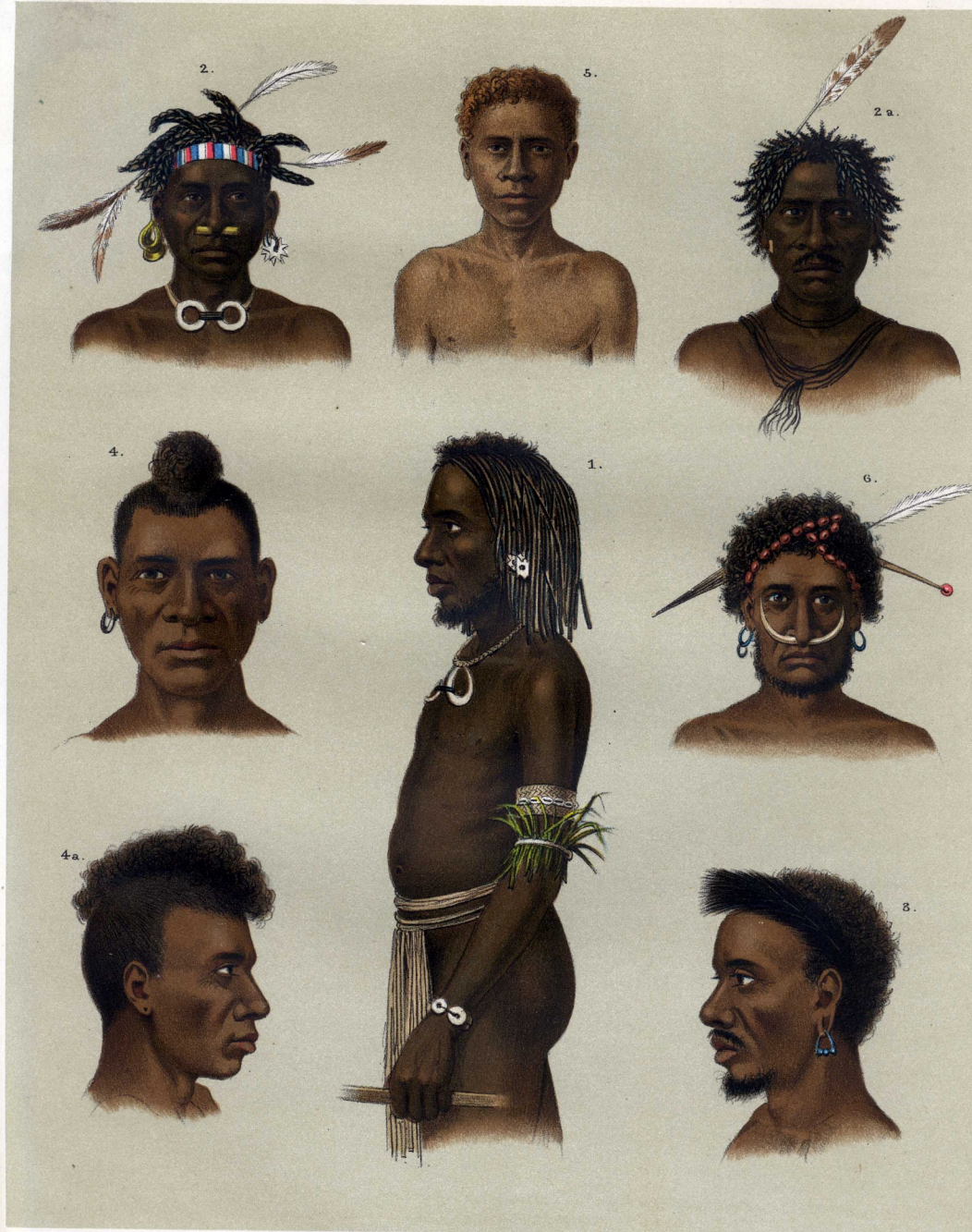
SUITABLE FOR ORGANIC GARDENING

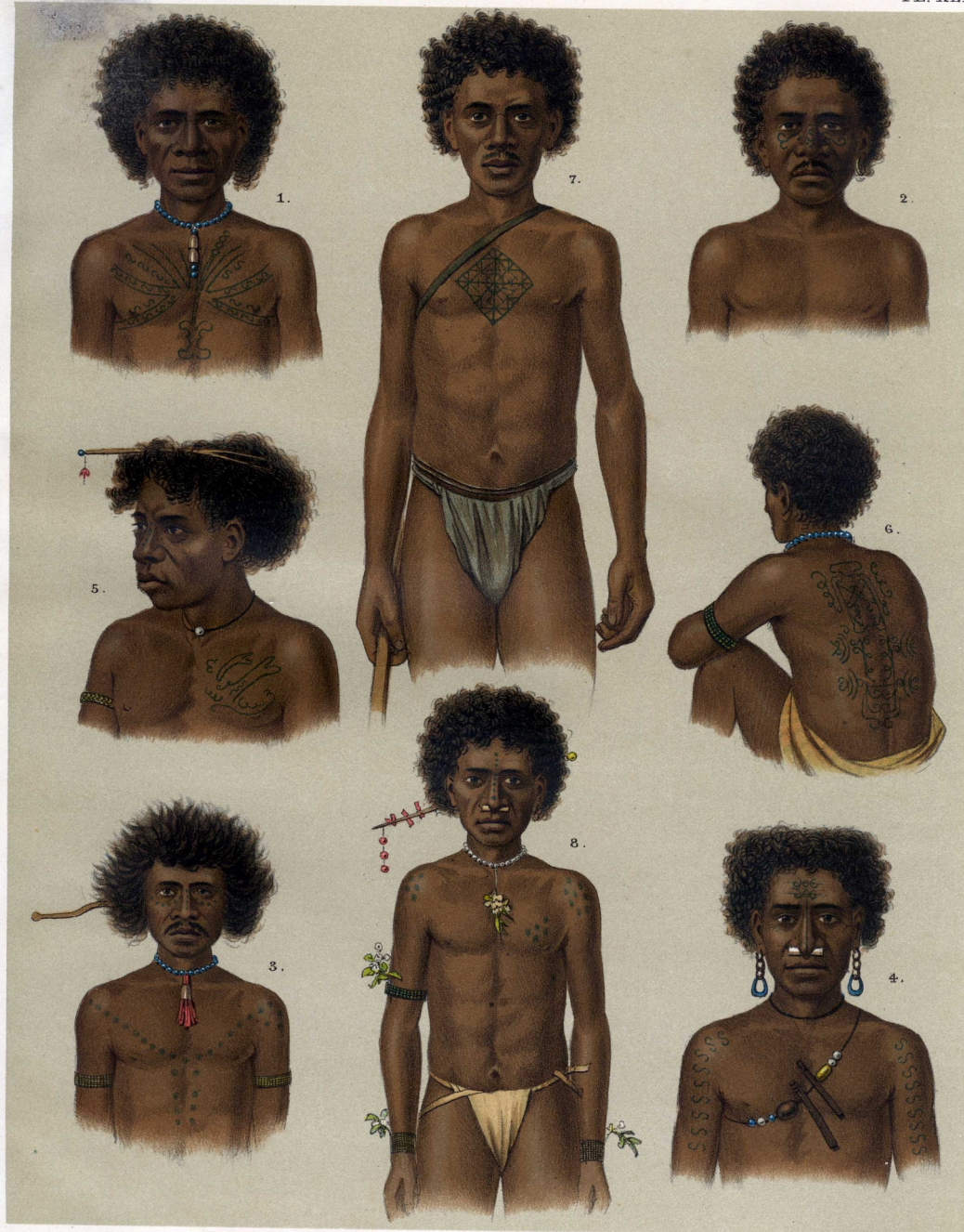
In Lamarck's time,
some Western scientists opened other fields
to classification...











Native cultures also
were defined as objects of Science.

PRIMITIVE CULTURE
RESEARCHES INTO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF MYTHOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION
LANGUAGE, ART, AND CUSTOM

BY

EDWARD B. TYLOR, D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S.

PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
AUTHOR OF 'RESEARCHES INTO THE EARLY HISTORY OF MANKIND,' ETC.

*'Ce n'est pas dans les possibilités, c'est dans l'homme même qu'il
faut étudier l'homme : il ne s'agit pas d'imaginer ce qu'il aurait pu
ou dû faire, mais de regarder ce qu'il fait.'—DR. THOMAS.*

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I.

FOURTH EDITION, REVISED

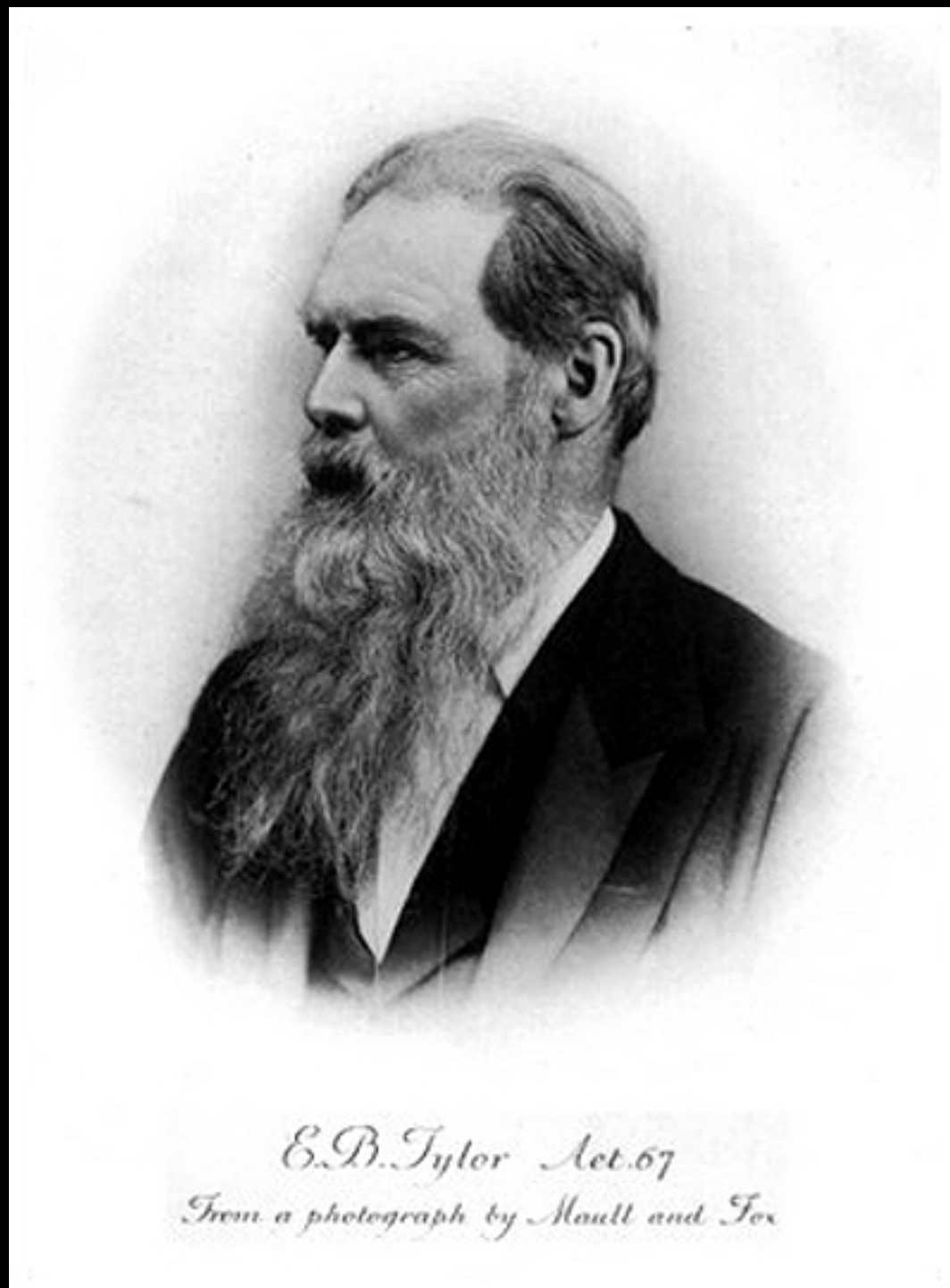
LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET

1903

(Rights of Translation and Reproduction reserved)

Thus in 1871,
Edward Burnett Tylor
(1832-1917),

...presented himself as
a "confirmed scientific rationalist"
and "cultural evolutionist"...



E.B. Tylor Act. 67

From a photograph by Maull and Fox

...proposed a theory of gradual modifications
in the history of human cultures:

...Animism,
the belief in the individual soul or "anima"...

...of all things and
of all natural manifestations...

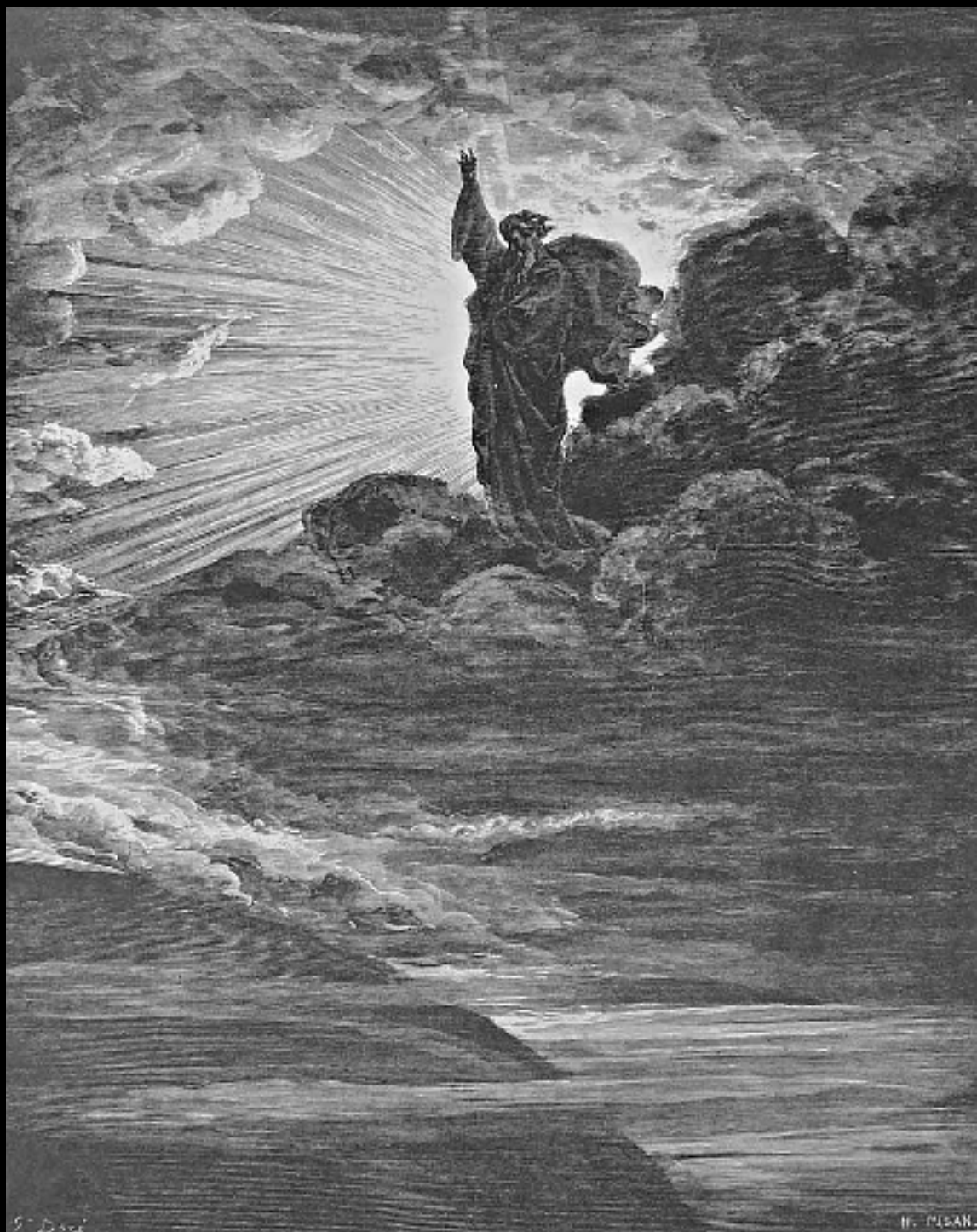


...was the first step
of all human religions.

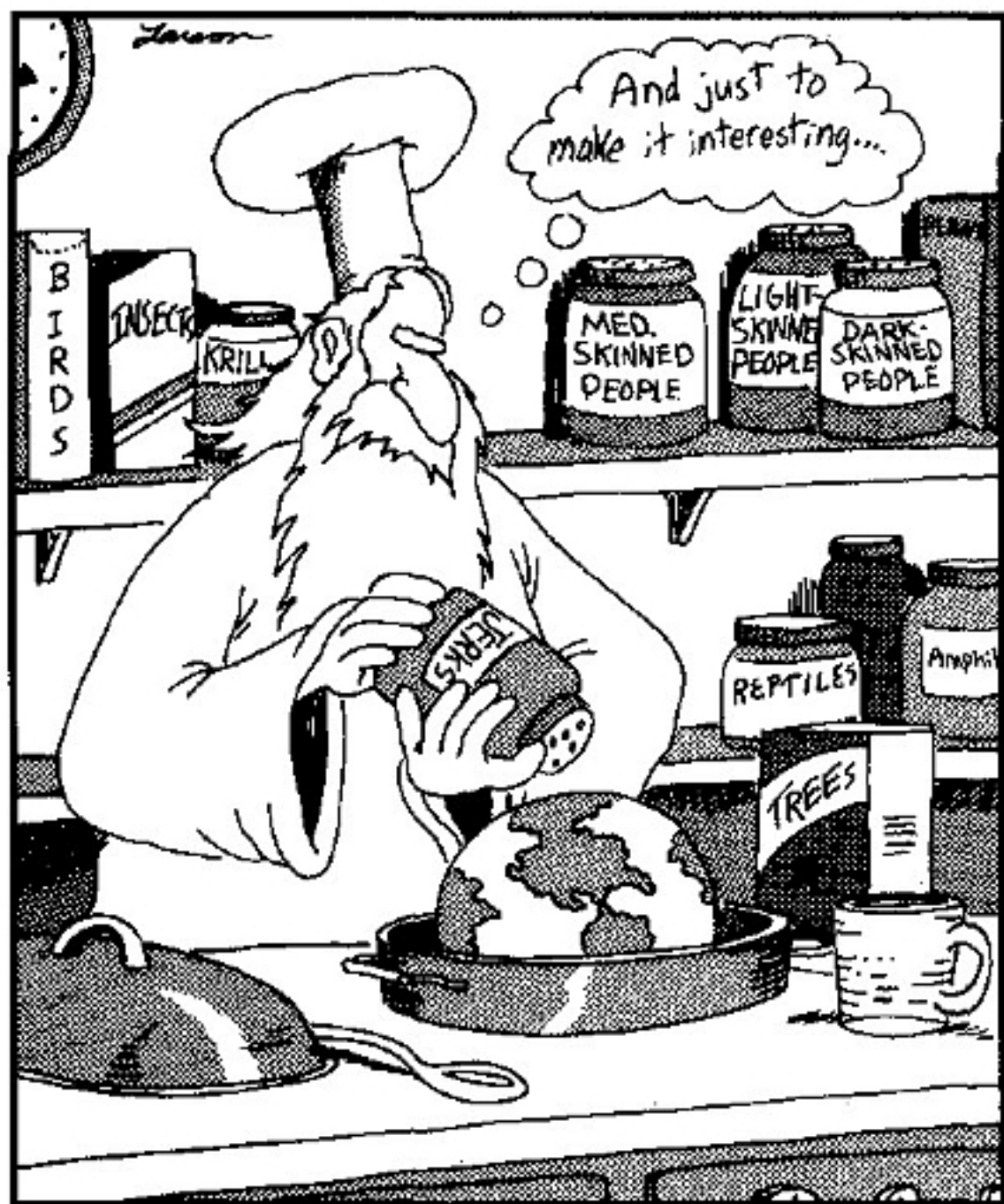
To be followed by Polytheism...



and Monotheism...

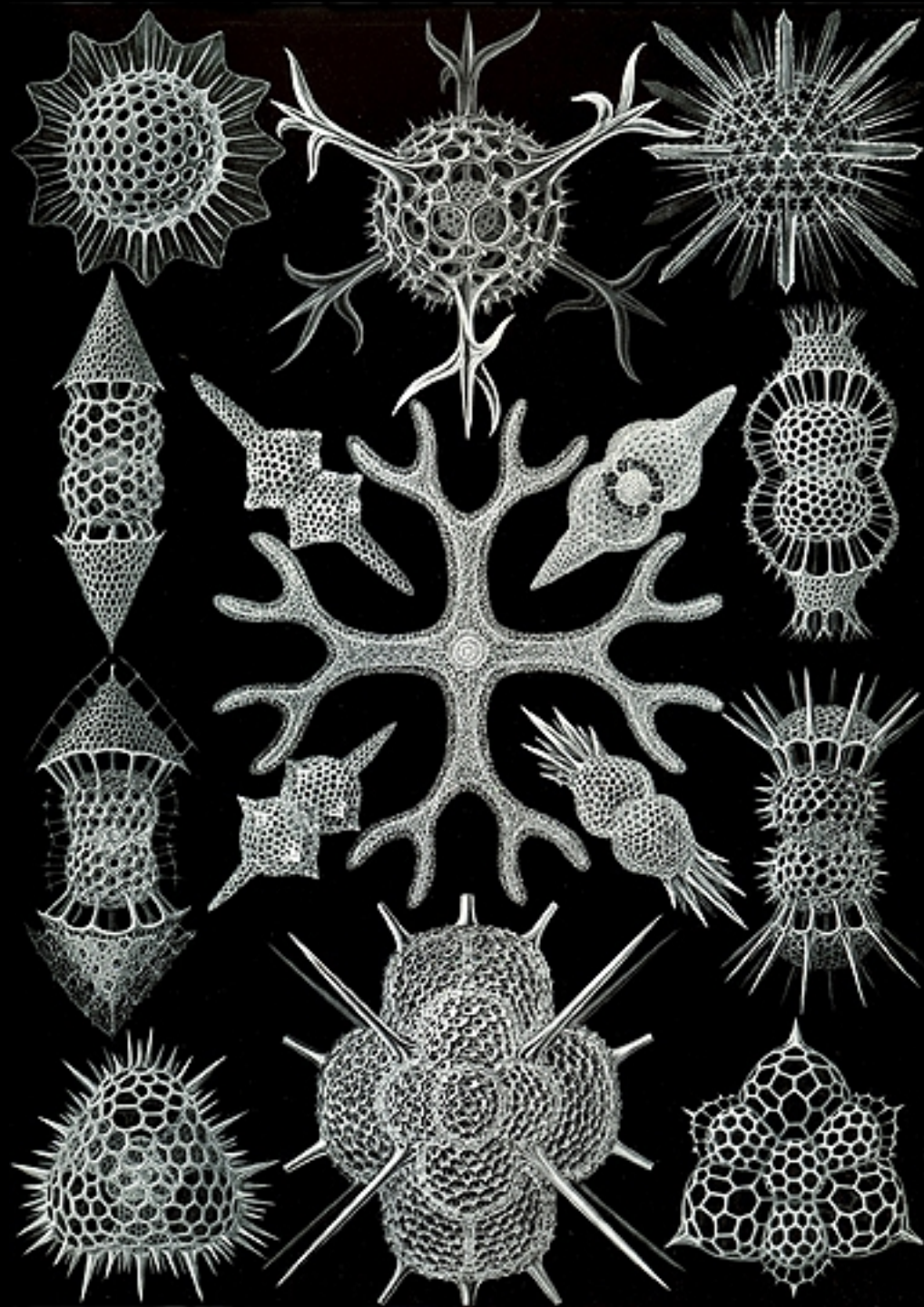


...the most advanced stage:
the Western one!

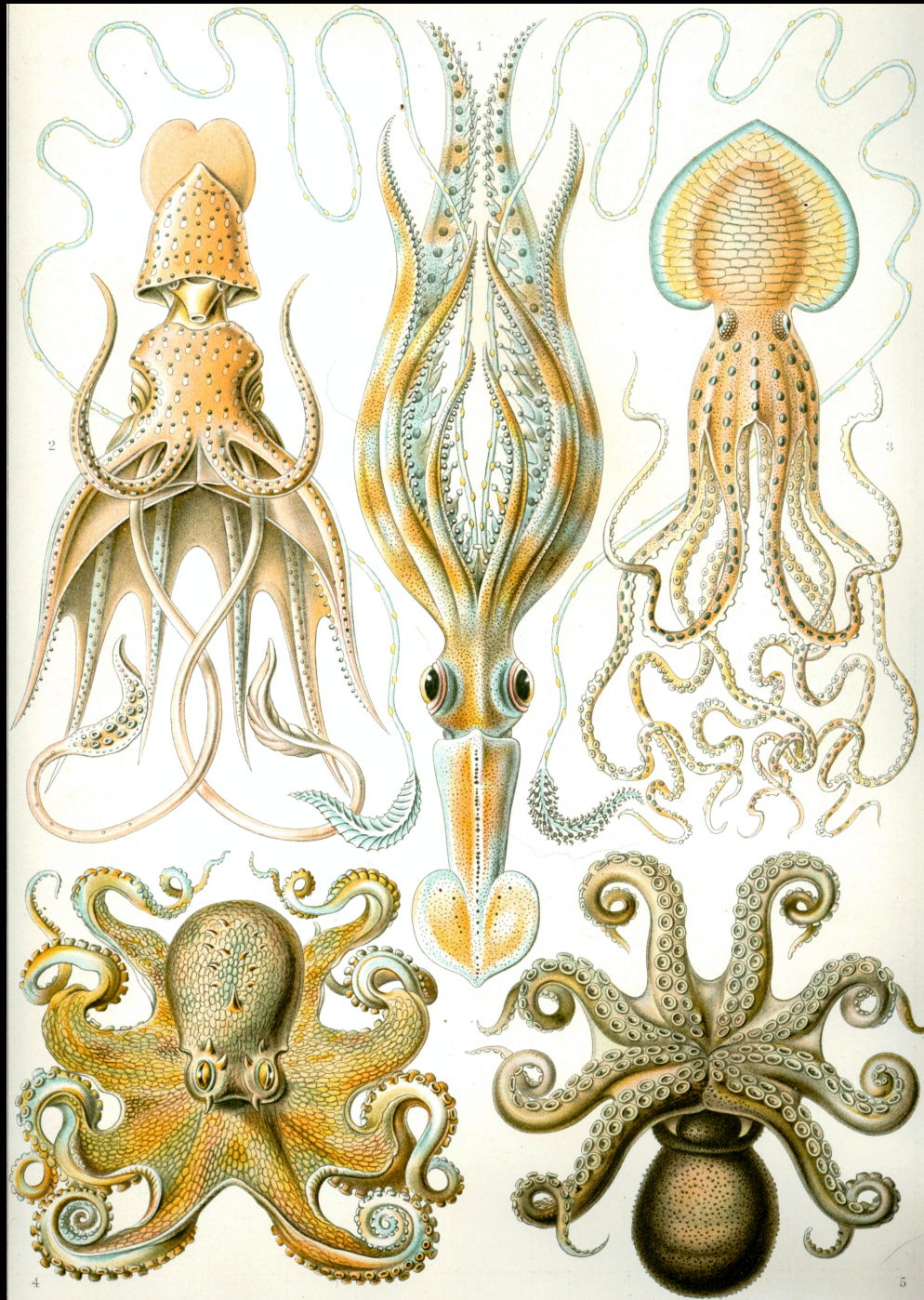


But at the same epoch,
other Western scientists...

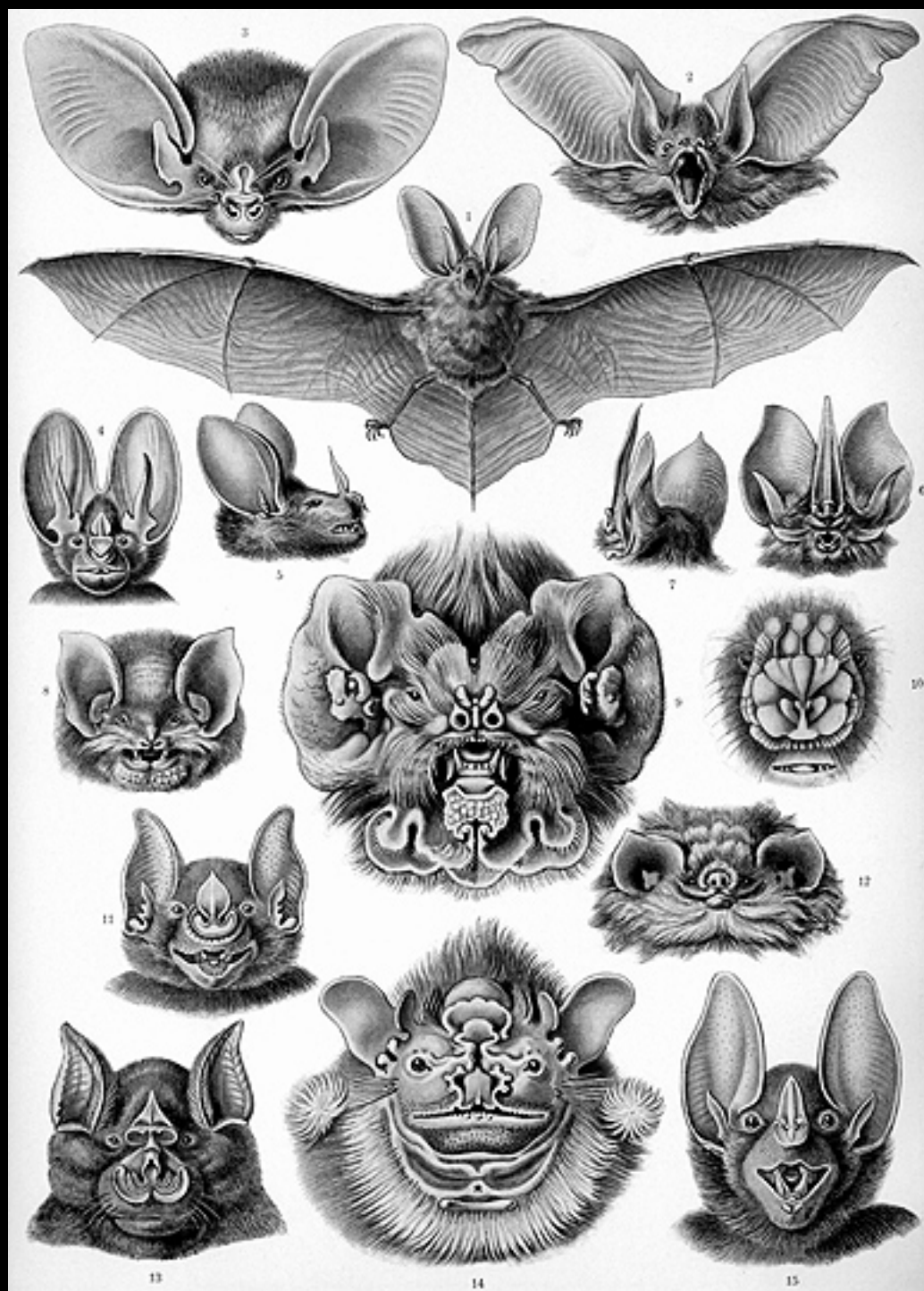
...some of them famous
for their interest in the Beauty of Nature...









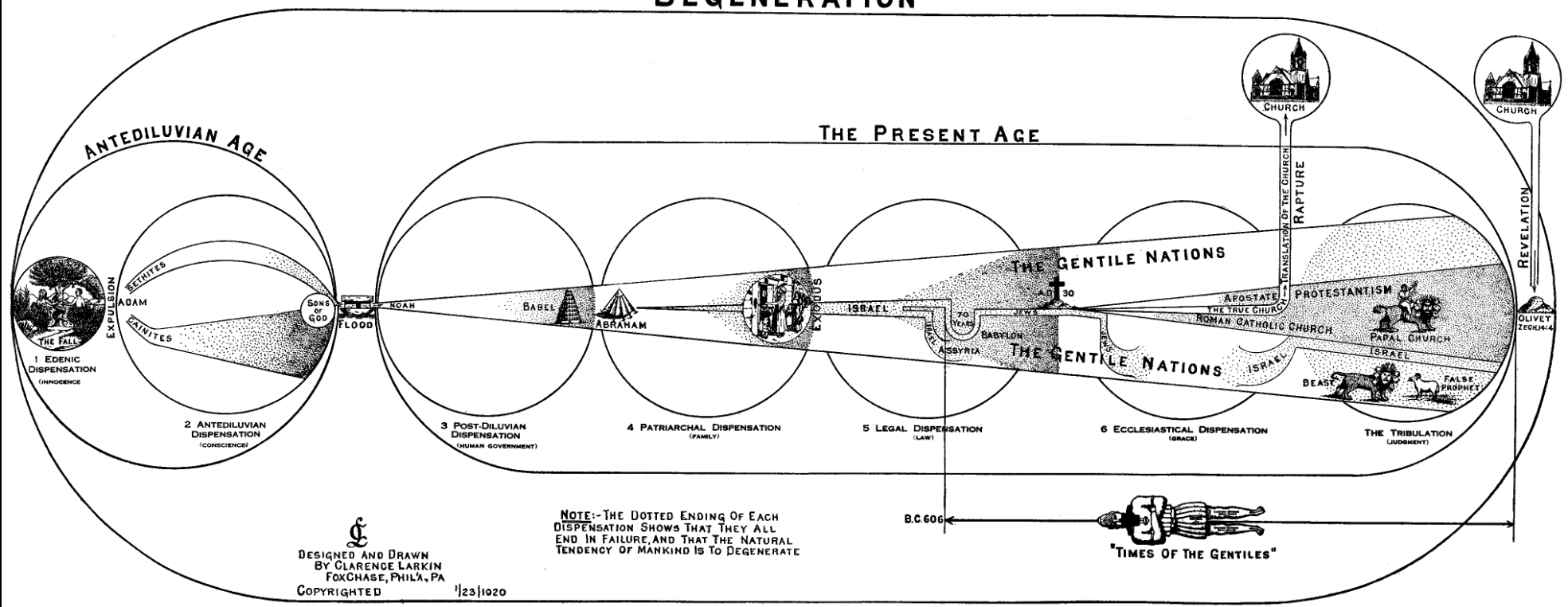


...also produced representations
of human evolution with very different aims...



Some set up a "theory of degeneration"
- very popular at that time.

DEGENERATION



For its supporters if the new theory
of biological evolution was valid,

...it means that the biological history of mankind
was no longer a unitary process:

...some human races
had to be considered as "degenerate".



Greek



Greek



Negro



Negro



chimpanzee



chimpanzee

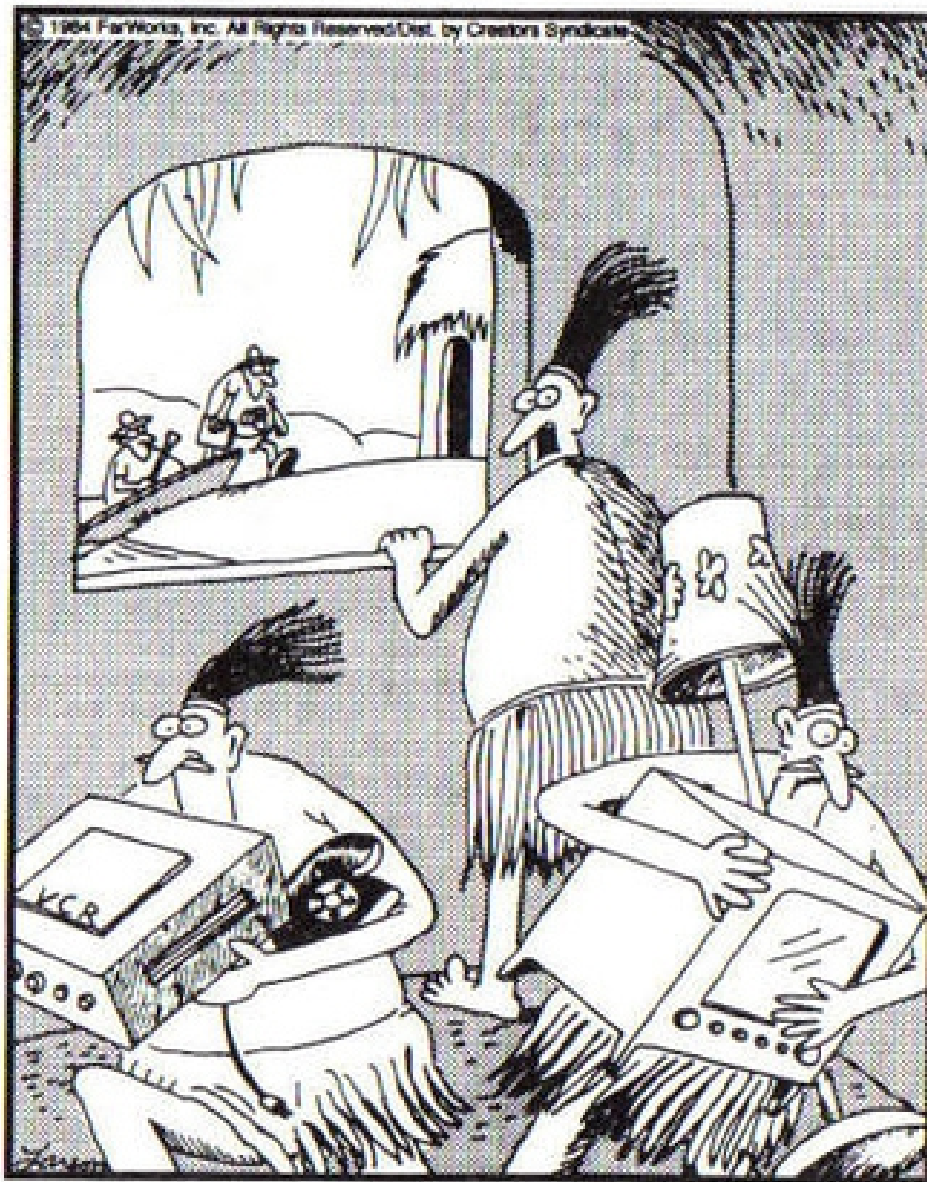
So?

Firstly, for sure, nowadays this cannot be considered as a scientific fact.

Secondly: all cultures do have a History!

There is no "culture living in the past"...

THE FAR SIDE® BY GARY LARSON



The Far Side® by Gary Larson © 1984 FarWorks, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

"Anthropologists! Anthropologists!"

Anyway native peoples have rapidly learned that anthropologists never came first nor alone...



...and that
they have to be very cautious!



But the collections that give
their field to Western naturalists,

...how are they produced?

By which kind of practices?

Let us follow a scientific expedition
to which Bruno Latour (1947 -),



...the well-known science adventurer,
joined himself...

Bruno Latour

La clef de Berlin

et autres leçons
d'un amateur de sciences



Ceci est une clef.

LA DÉCOUVERTE

A team of botanists and
pedologists met, in Amazonia...



...on the edge of a forest and a savannah

One question led them there...

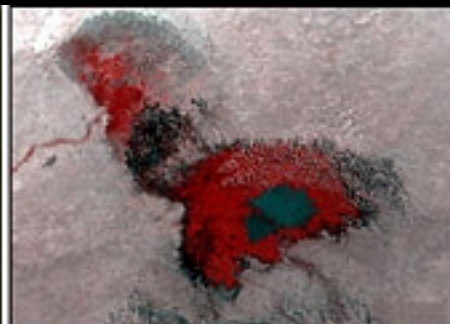
...what is actually gaining ground over the other:
the forest or the savannah?



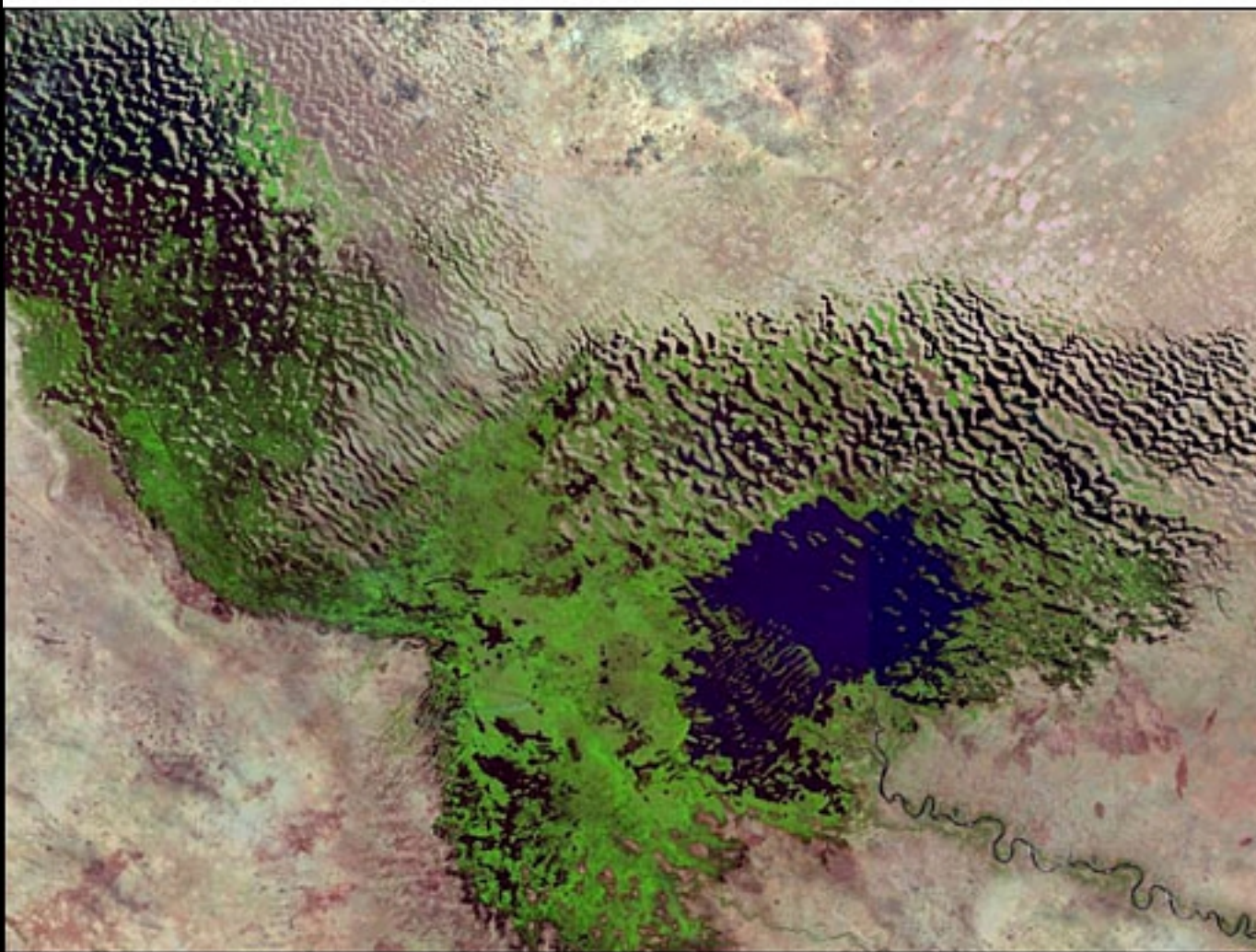
1973



1987



1997

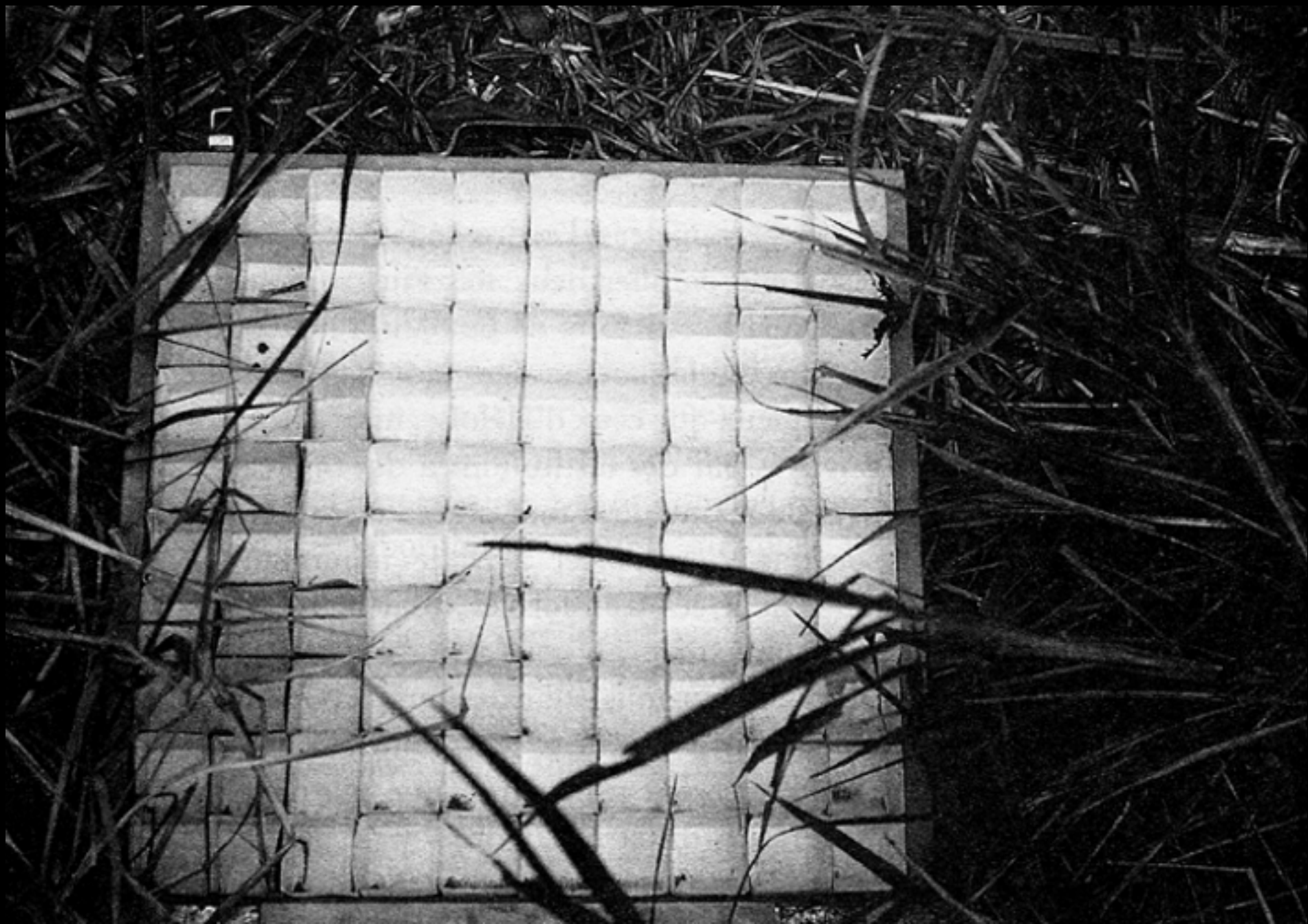


2001

A question which - in the context of global warming
- could be of some importance!



First let us meet
the fetish tool of these pedologists...

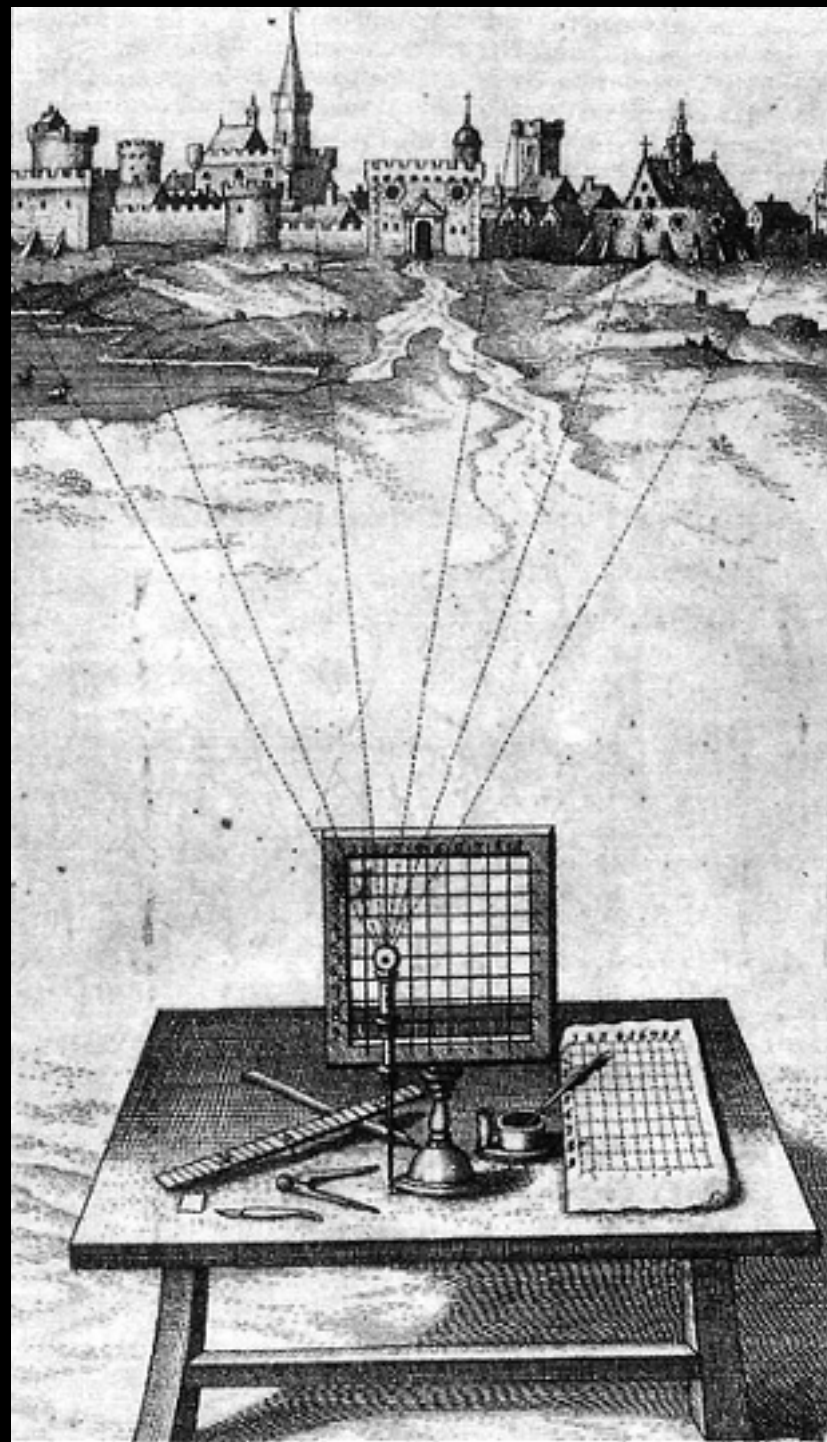


Yes: this is a true scientific device!

It is a "pe-do-com-pa-ra-tor"!

In spite of its ordinary and modest look,
it is a powerful tool!

It belongs to the very prestigious
branch of the "Gnomons"...

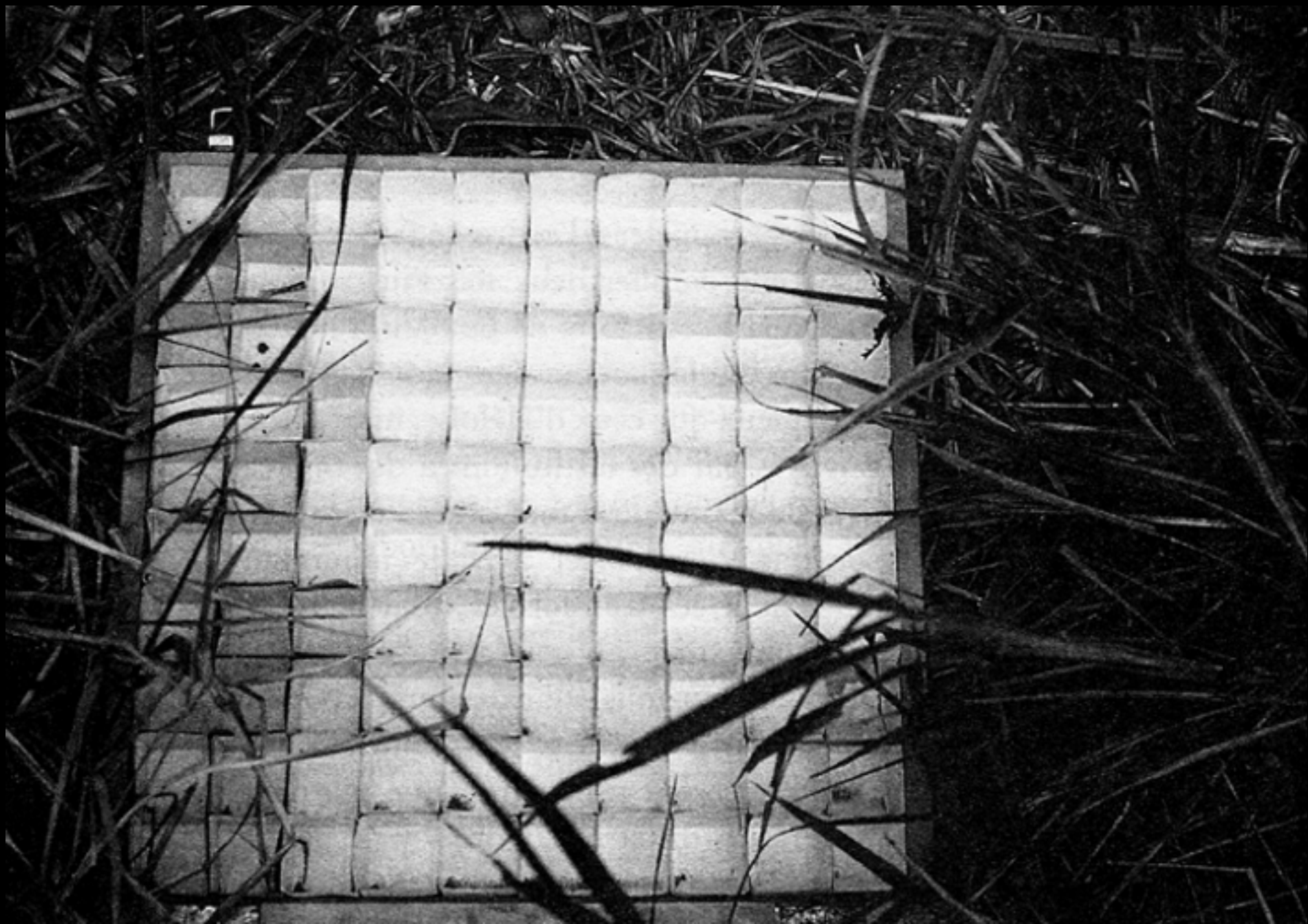


...one of the most ancient among scientific tools:
from three to two dimensions!

This pedocomparator
is able to master space and time...

...to transform the world
into coordinates...

...to change matter (soil)
into text!



But how does it work?

(Remember: scientists want to know
which type of vegetation overruns the other)

To start with:
the pedologists must make sure
they know where they are...









Then: they have to integrate
the initial work of the botanists...







And this to be able to decide where to start exploring and encoding the plant frontier.

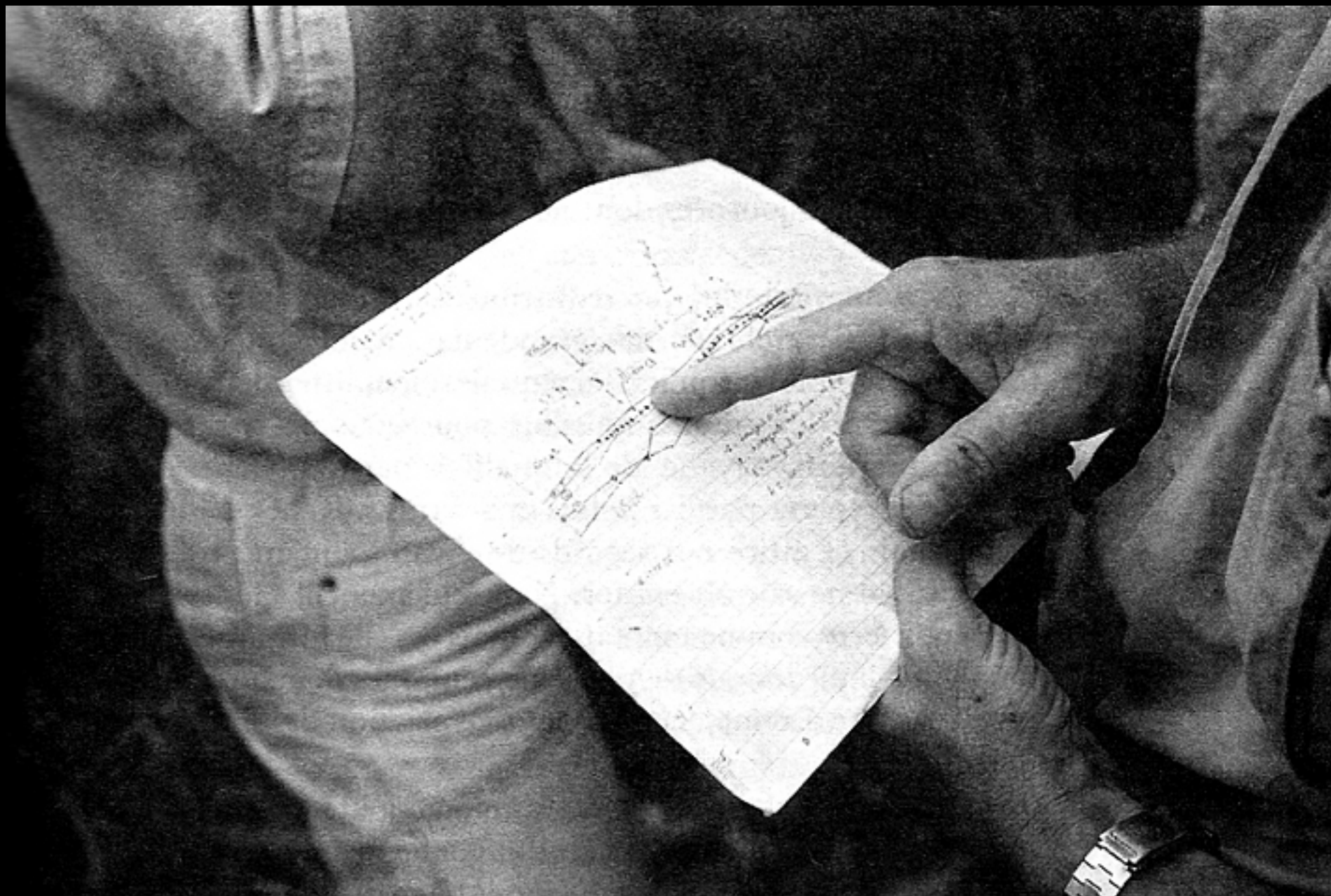


But above all: they should never,
never lose track of what they are doing!

This is one of Latour's major discoveries!

In Western Sciences...

...there is always a "small logbook"
which warrants the protocol...



...and which so warrants
future comparison between the data!

Pedologists can now begin:
dig a hole and collect small pieces of earth...



...taken at different depths in the soil,
and fill the boxes of the pedocomparator.

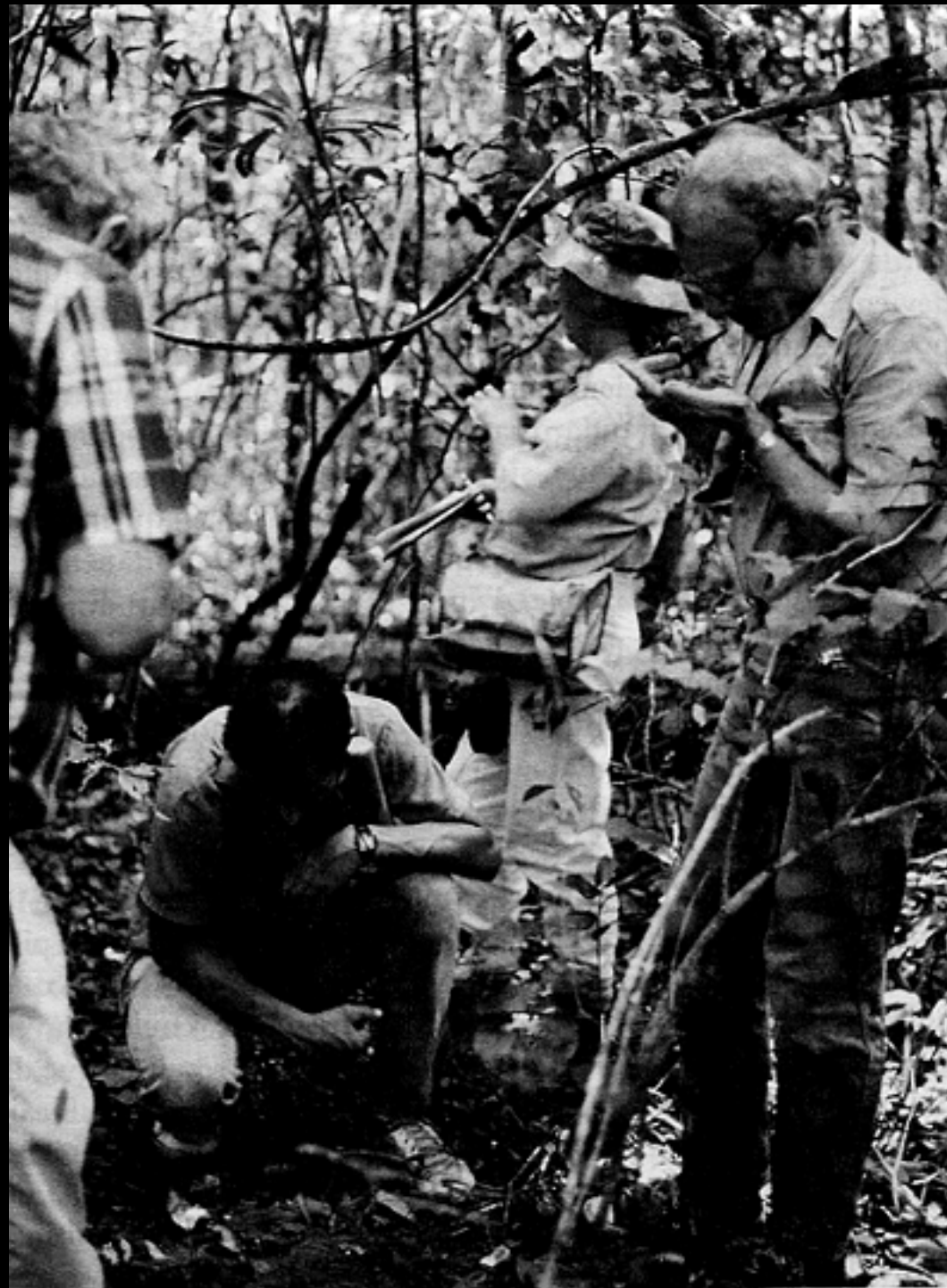


Aligning those different boxes
in one same column...

...will allow them to register a track
of the different earth layers...

...which compose the soil at this precise spot
(of the forest-savannah transition).

And they all do it
over again and again:
another hole, another spot...



...till they are able to connect
the different types of soils that form this frontier.

At this point
the pedocomparator is empowered!

Along with the final diagram that summarizes and organizes all the data collected by the expedition...

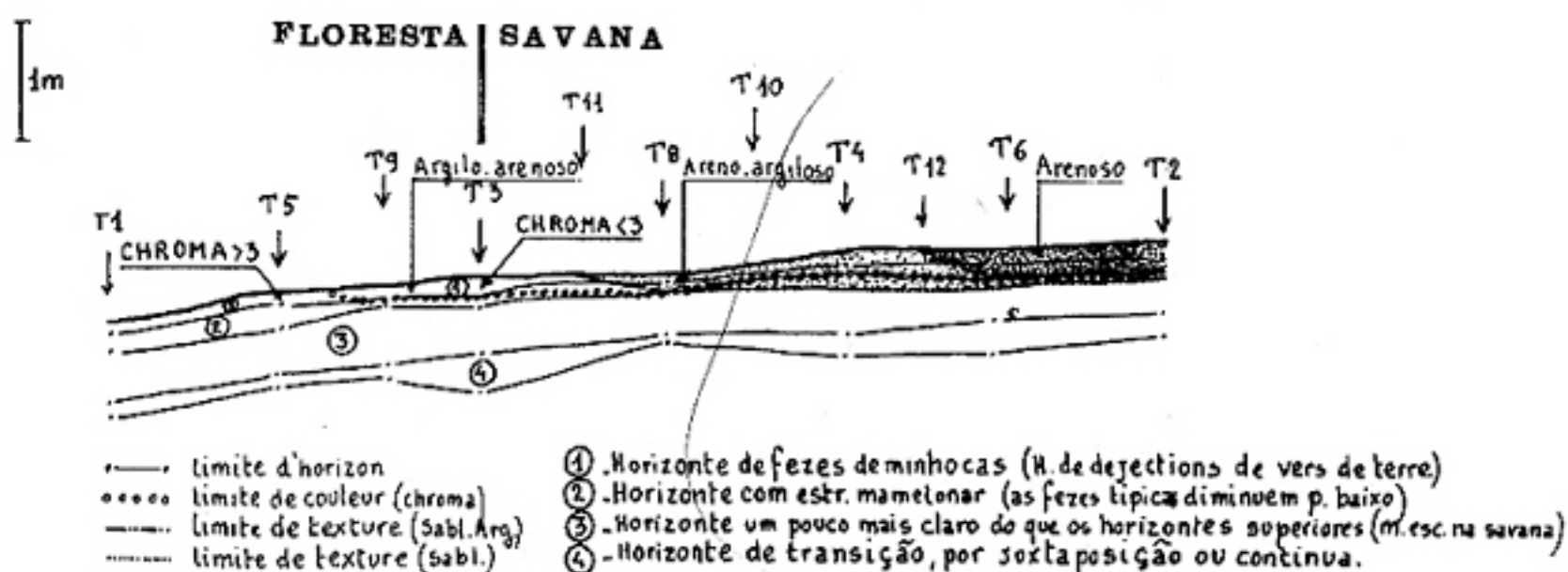


Figure 3. Coupe du transect 1

...the precious tool
is now able to exhibit the edge's story!



From the pedologists' standpoint,
this part of the Amazonian space...

...is now fully and perfectly represented
by the collection of boxes!



Thus: for Science, there is no
"*external world*"
waiting to be discovered.

Western scientists meet the world
through a complex succession of "*operations*".

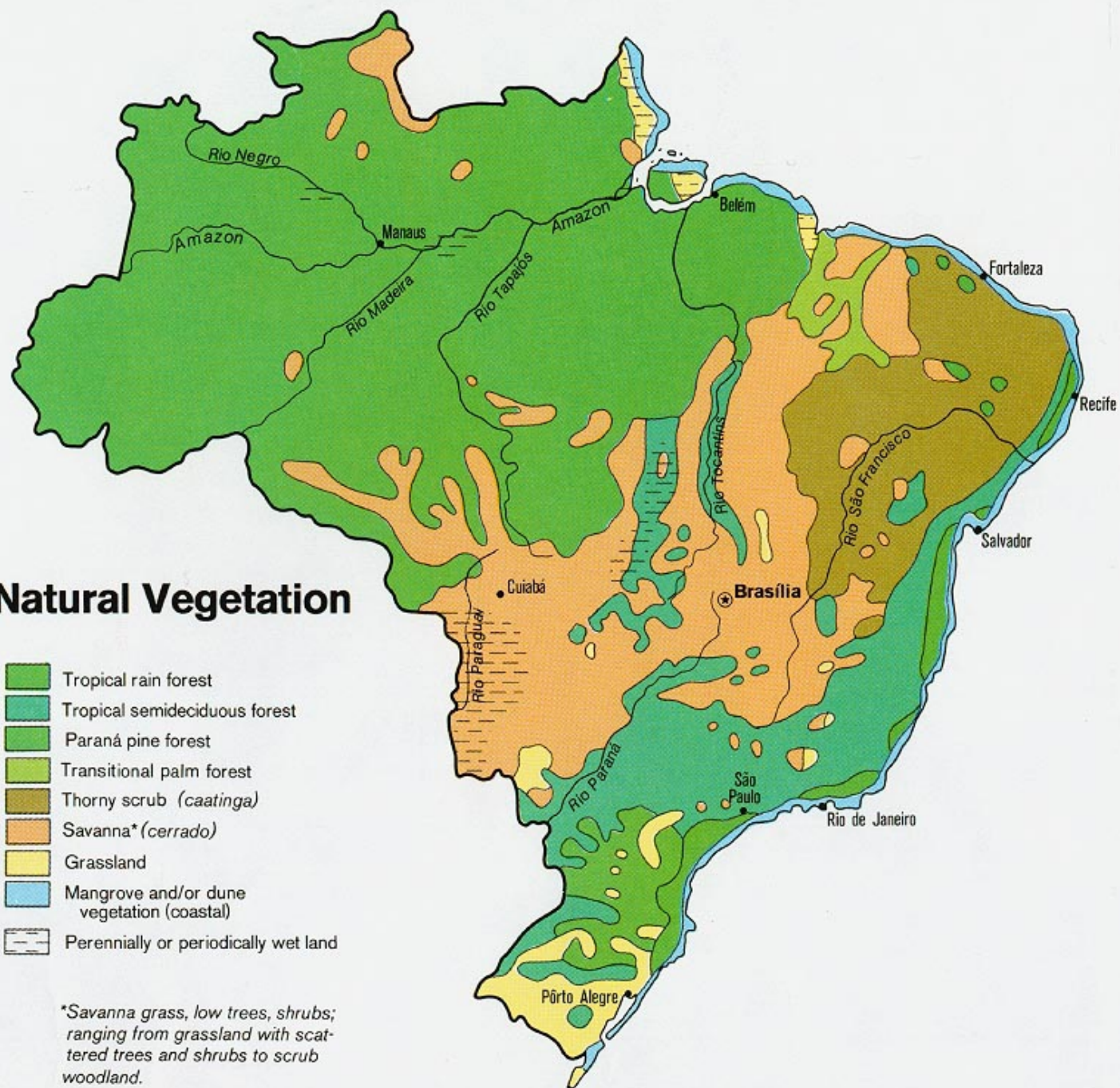
In order to be known
the world has first to be:

"aligned, transformed, constructed"!

Natural Vegetation

-  Tropical rain forest
-  Tropical semideciduous forest
-  Paraná pine forest
-  Transitional palm forest
-  Thorny scrub (*caatinga*)
-  Savanna* (*cerrado*)
-  Grassland
-  Mangrove and/or dune vegetation (coastal)
-  Perennially or periodically wet land

*Savanna grass, low trees, shrubs; ranging from grassland with scattered trees and shrubs to scrub woodland.



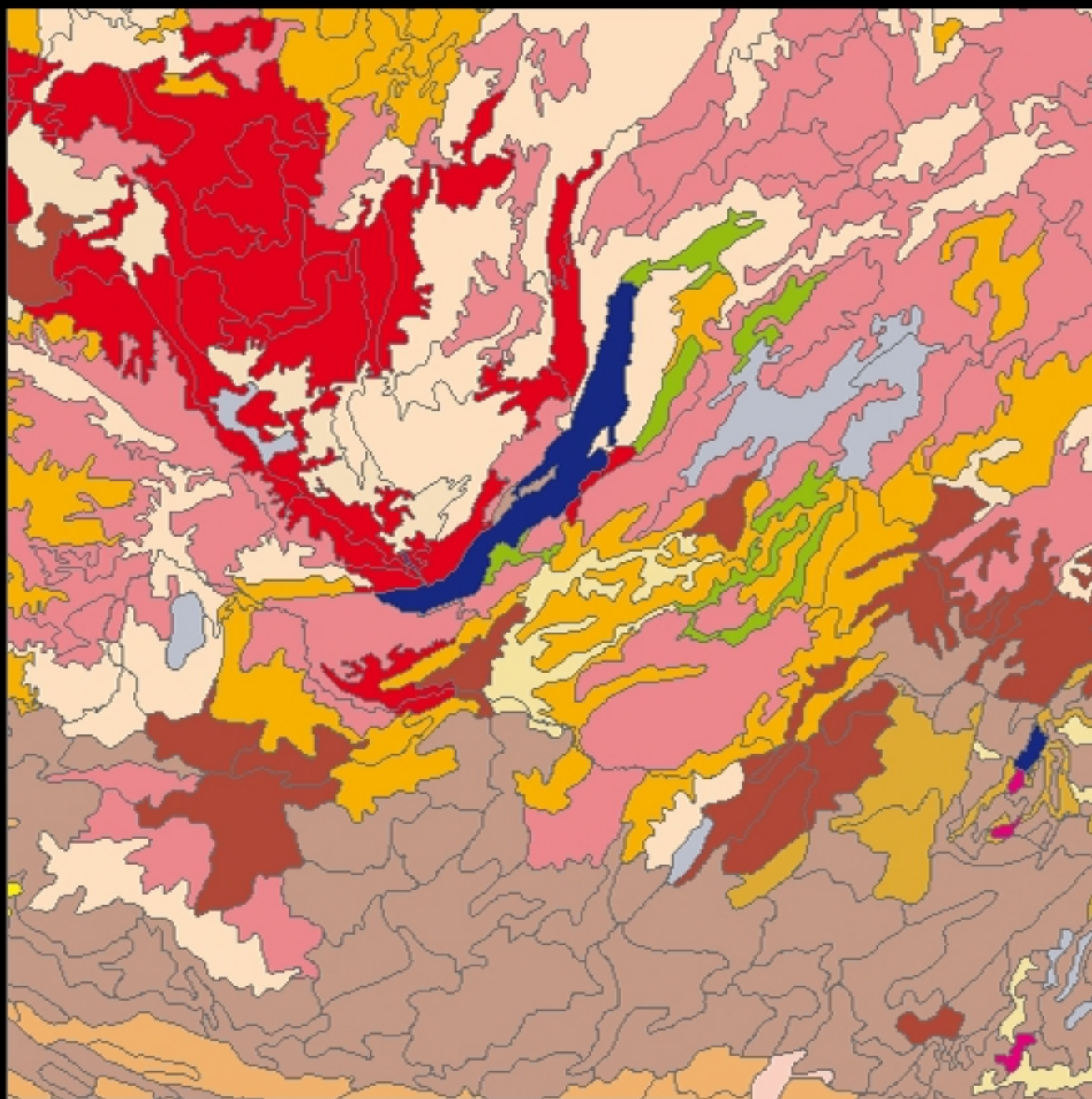
An aerial photograph of a tropical landscape. A prominent, winding river flows through the scene, its banks lined with dense, colorful vegetation in shades of green, yellow, and red. The river's path is irregular, with several meanders and oxbow-like curves. The surrounding land is covered in a mix of forest and open areas, with some patches appearing more barren or cleared.

Soil Biodiversity in Amazonian and Other Brazilian Ecosystems

Edited by
F.M.S. Moreira, J.O. Siqueira And L. Brussaard



CABI Publishing



But, haven't you noticed
a rather remarkable absence?

No Amerindians!

Neither in the team, nor even in the landscape...



Fig. 1 — Chef de Mandans. (Amérique.)



Fig. 2. — Guerrier Cherokee. (Amérique.)

Here as elsewhere...



Fig. 1. — Peau-Rouge. (Amérique.)



Fig. 2. — Inca. (Amérique.)



Fig. 1. — Californien. (Amérique.)



Fig. 2. — Aucasien du Chili. (Amérique.)



Fig. 1. — Femme des îles Carolines.



Fig. 2. — Indigène des îles Marquises.



Fig. 1. — Cafre amakose.



Fig. 2. — Nègre de Mozambique.



Fig. 1. — Habitant du barre Dorey (Nouvelle-Guinée).



Fig. 2. — Teodai, (Habitant de la Nouvelle-Zélande.)



Fig. 1. — Tonki. (Jeune fille Tonga-Tahou.)



Fig. 2. — Monhi, chef. (Nouvelle-Guinée.)

...so many natives
have been exterminated...

...that numerous places on the Earth
have now fallen silent.





From this point of view, colonialism belongs
to a precise Western lineage...







THE WITCH No.3.

A
B I L L
F O R

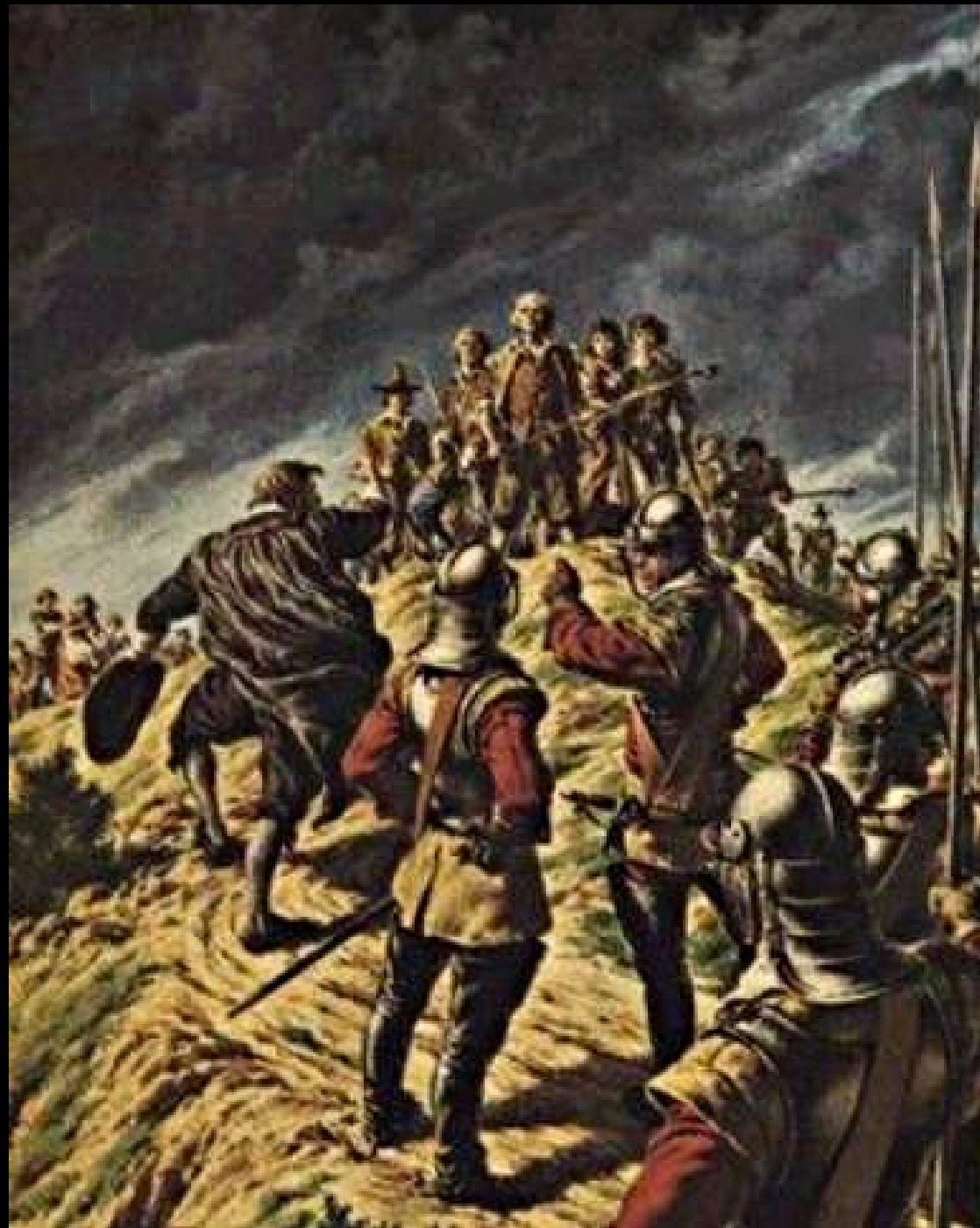
Dividing and Inclosing the open
and common Fields, common Pas-
tures, common Meadows, com-
mon Grounds, Heath and waste
Ground, in the Manor and Parish
of *West Haddon*, in the County of
Northampton.

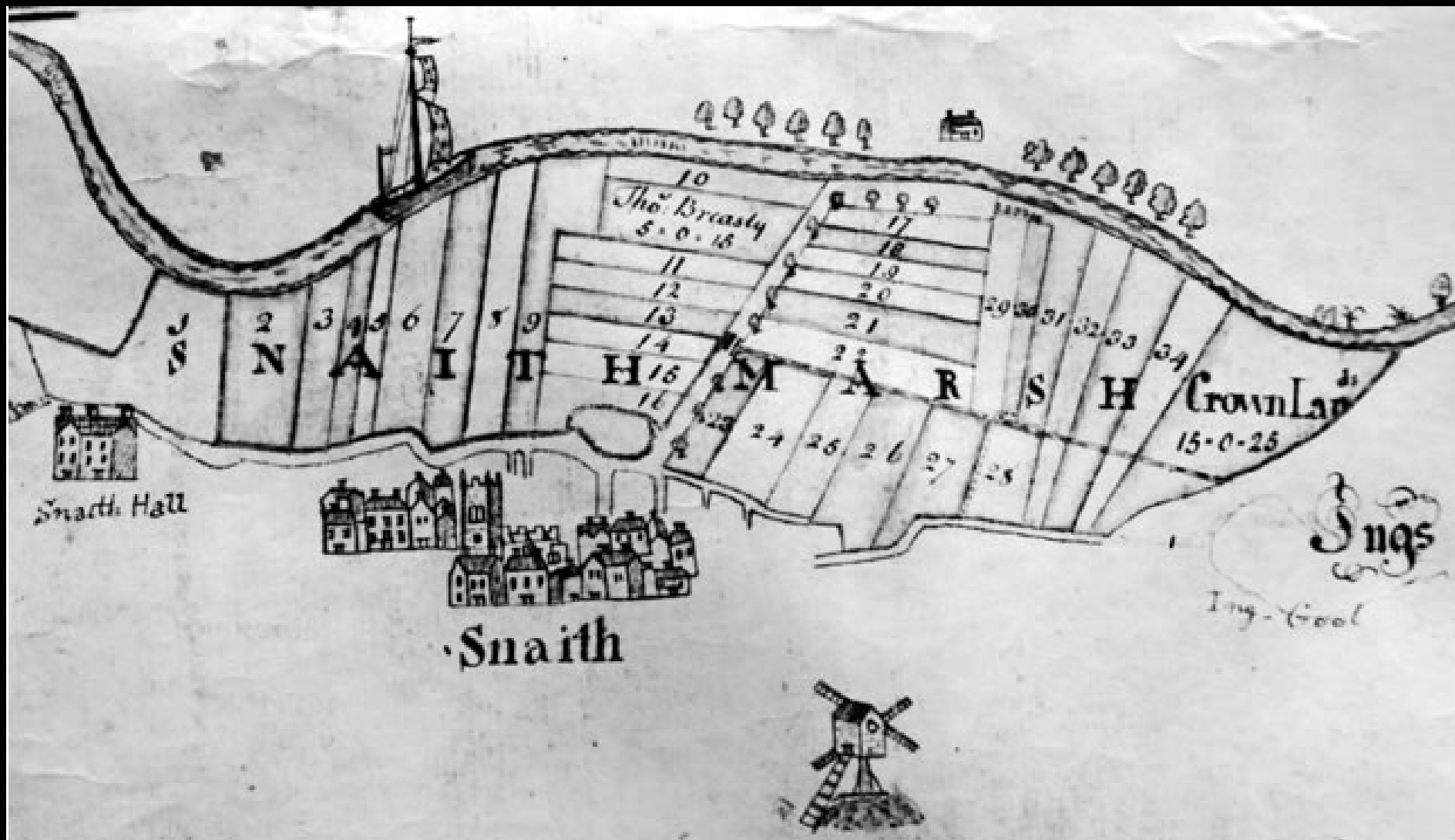
1764

“England is not a free people, till the poor that have no land,
have a free allowance to dig and labour the commons...”

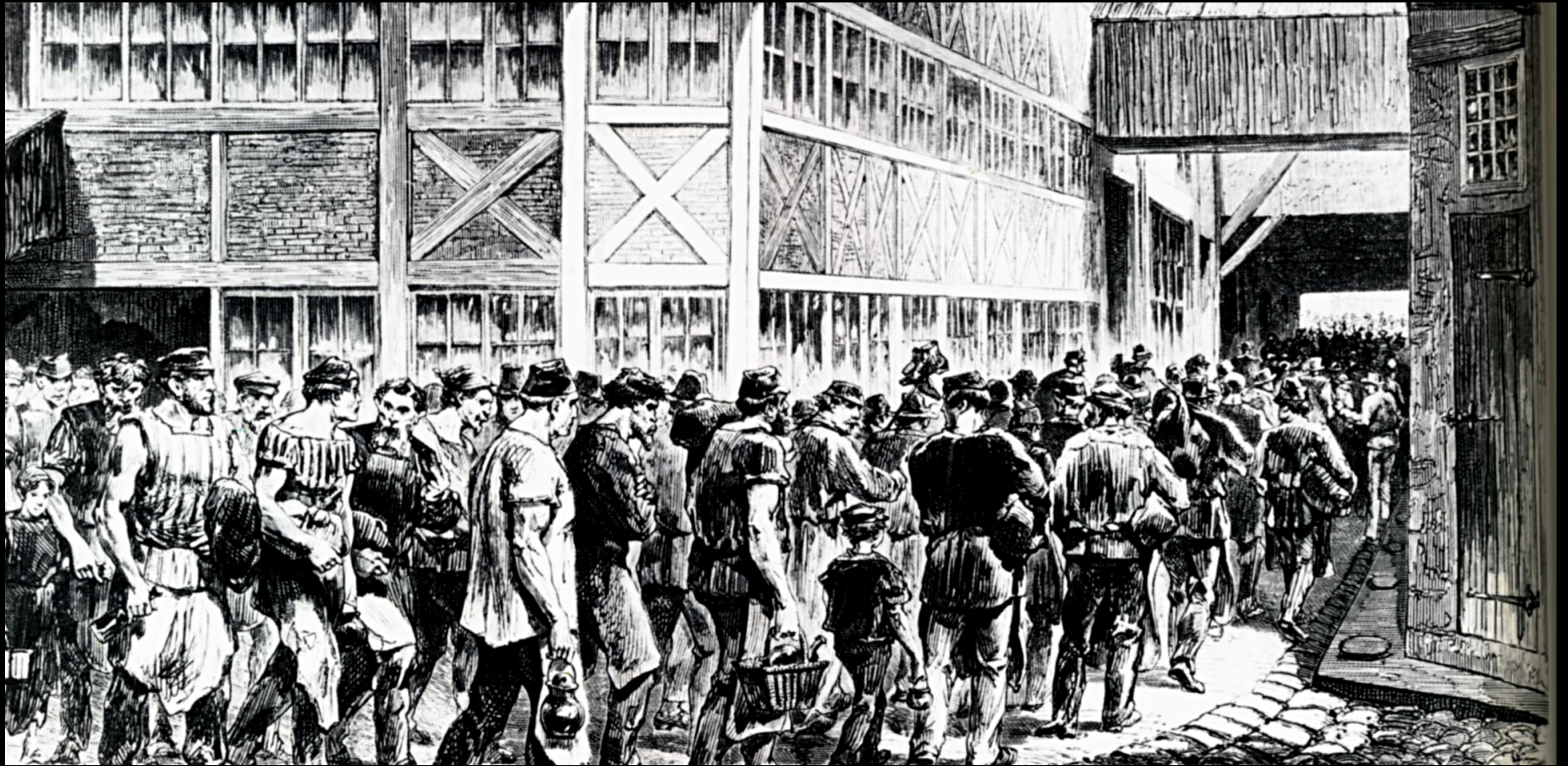
Gerrard Winstanley, 1649





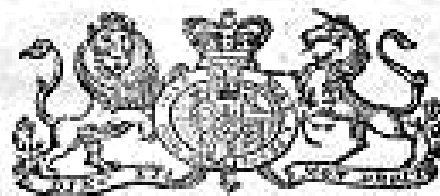








AN
ACT
FOR THE
AMENDMENT AND BETTER ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
Laws relating to the Poor
IN
ENGLAND AND WALES.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EYRE AND ANDREW SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

1835.





Sometimes only scattered traces
testify for those who have disappeared...





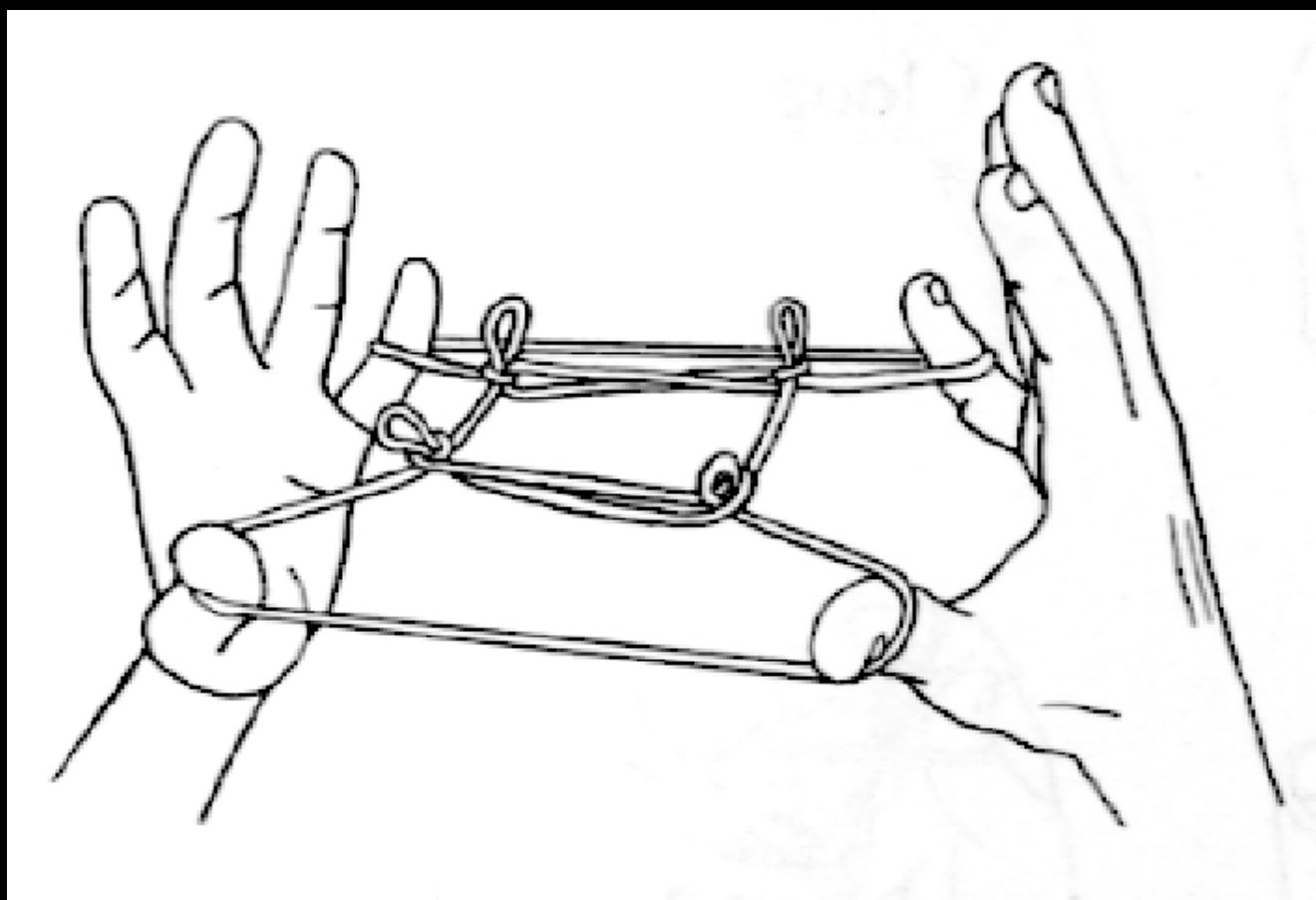




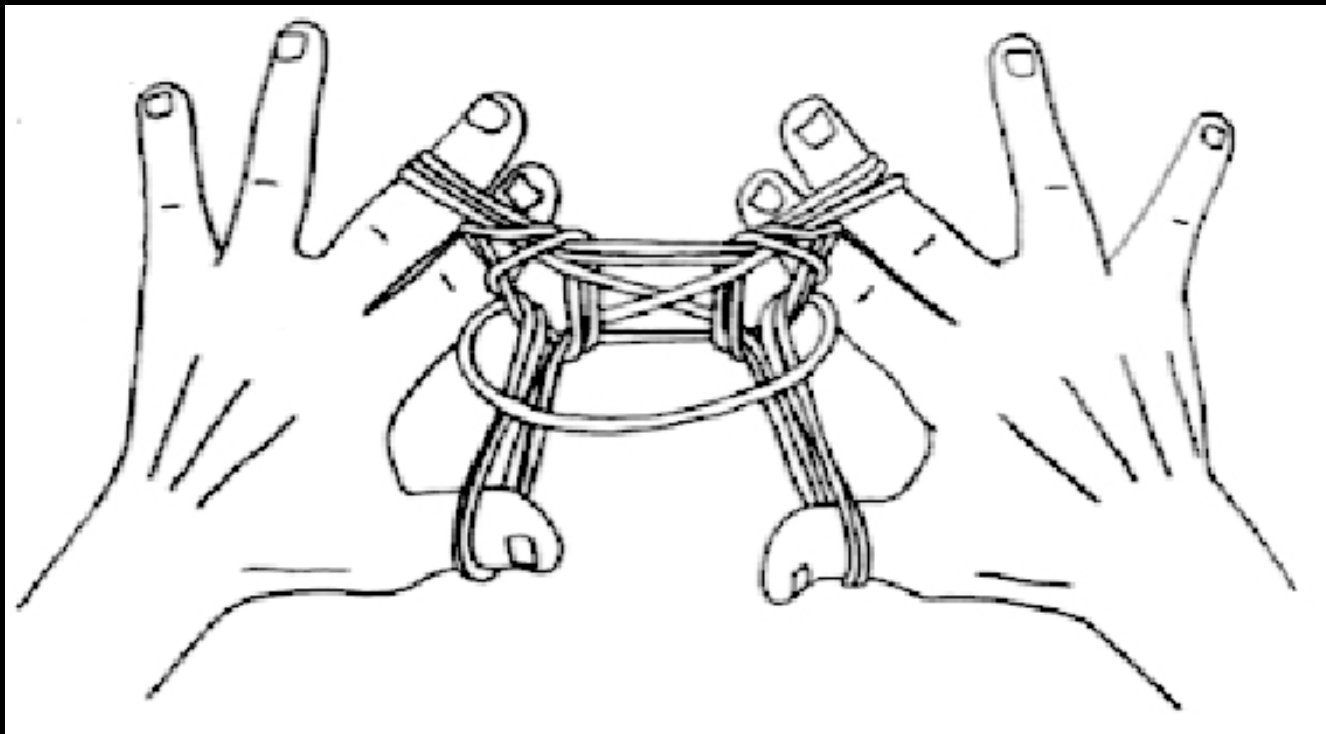
...traces,
the meaning of which is often lost.

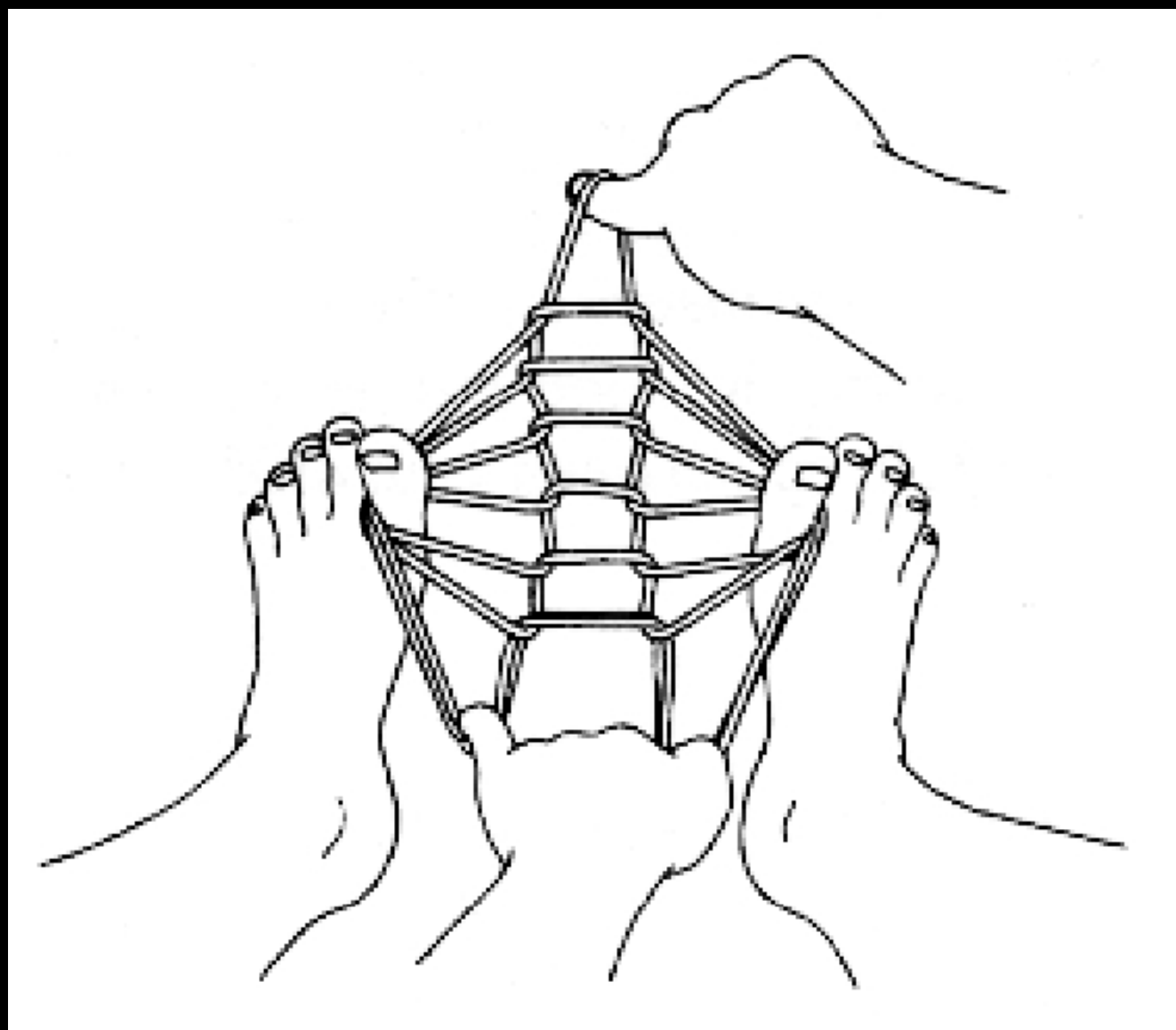


But other types
of "inscriptions" in the world,



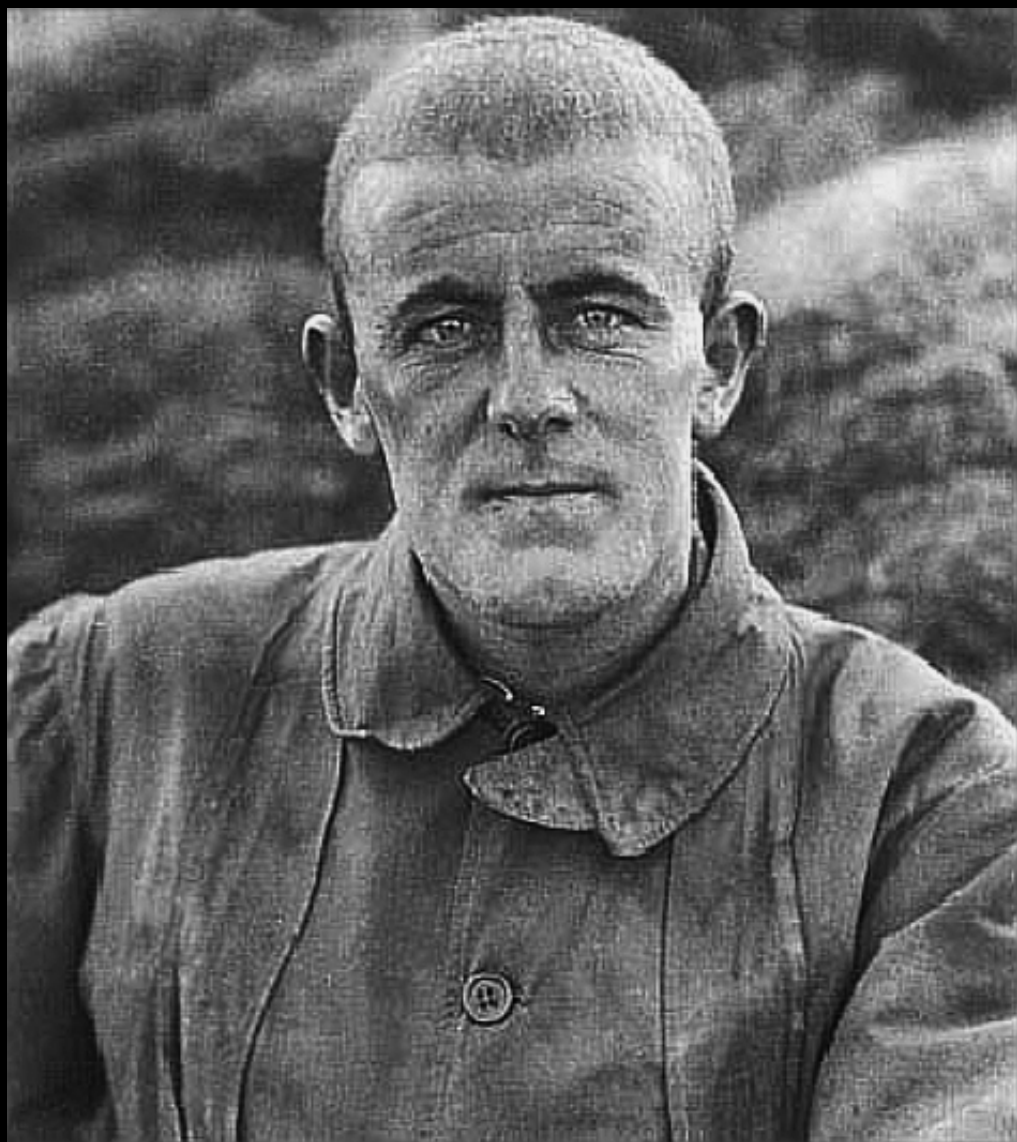
...even short-lived ones,
have found their survival paths.





Coming from native people,
maybe "discovered" later,

...testimonies gathered
by more attentive keepers.



For instance:
Diamond Jenness
(1886–1969),
"pioneer of Canadian anthropology"...

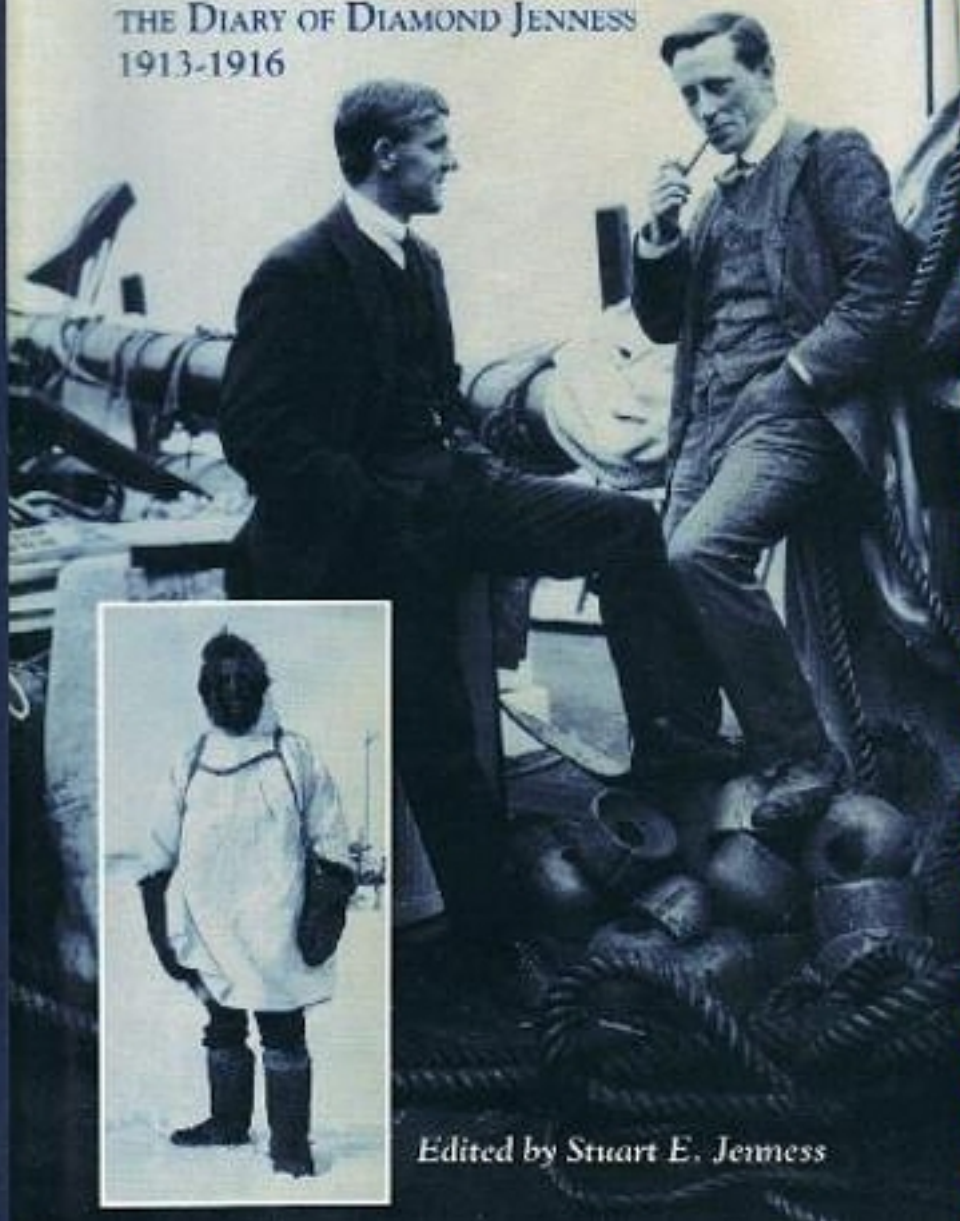
Arctic Odyssey

EDITED BY STUART E. JENNESS



Arctic Odyssey

THE DIARY OF DIAMOND JENNESS
1913-1916



Edited by Stuart E. Jenness

...who not only paid attention
to the singular 'string' talents of his hosts...

...but was also able to share and respect
the words of those he wanted to encounter:



Part of the Kettle Falls of the Columbia River. 1860.

*"White man writes everything down in a book
(so it will not be forgotten)..."*

*...but our ancestors married animals,
learned all their ways, and passed on...*

*...this knowledge from one generation
to another"*

A Dakeh (Carrier) Indian of the Bulkley River,
quoted by D. Jenness, 1943

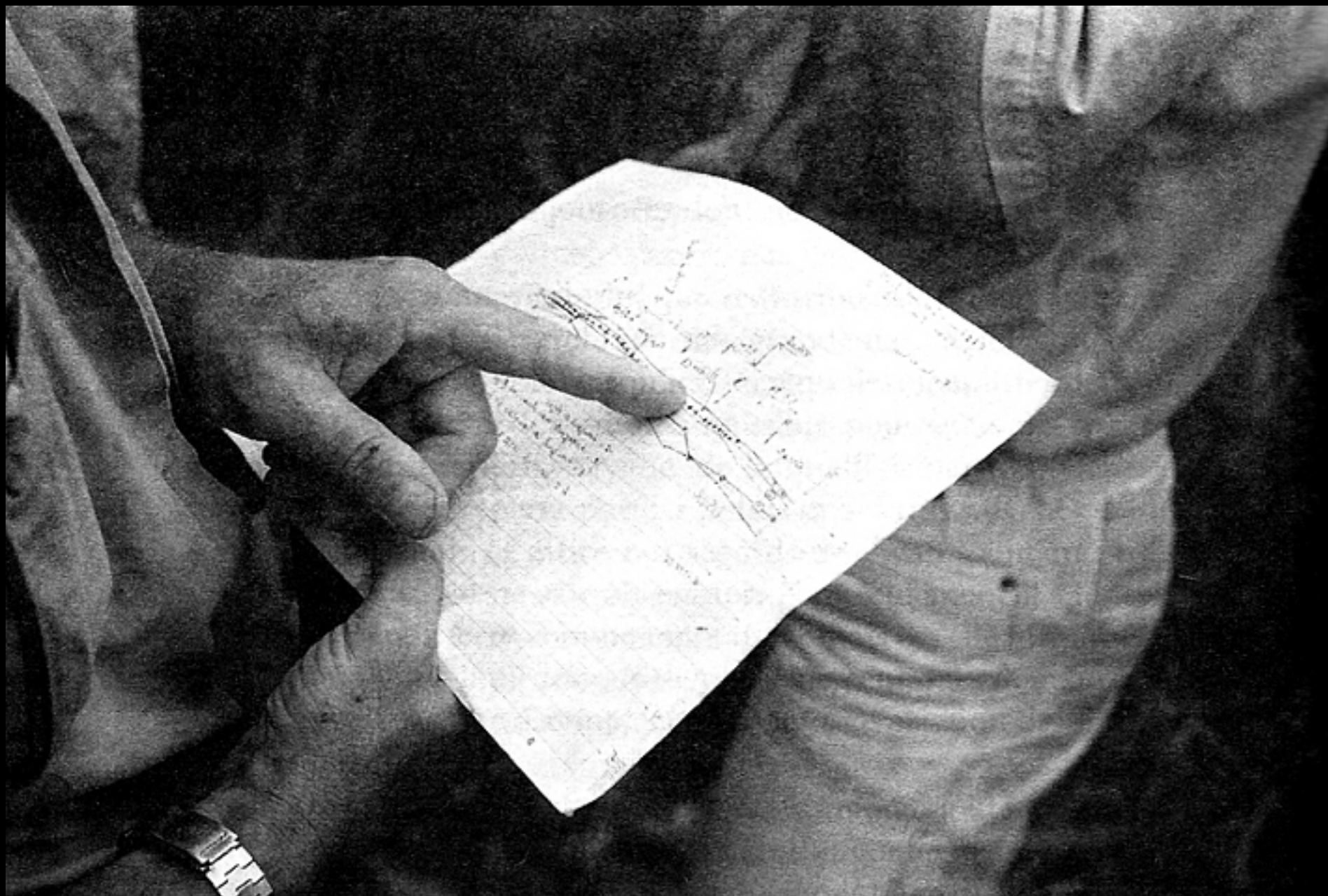


The Dakelh
"those-who-go-by-boat",
as well as many other natives...



...came to question,
as regards knowledge,

...the strange and new power
brought by the white man:



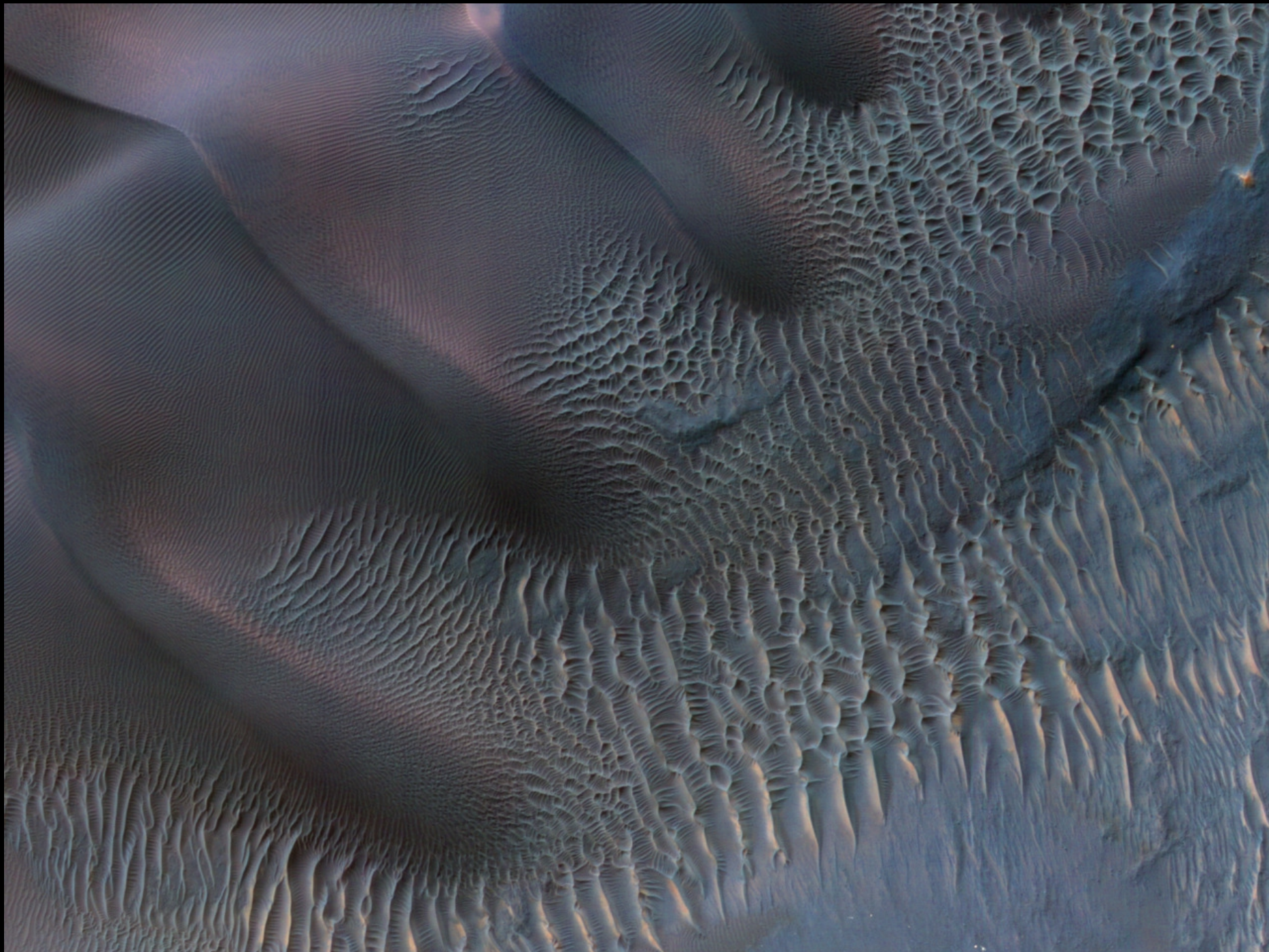
...the alphabetic writing!



If it is difficult for Western minds
"to approach the vividness..."

*...and intensity with which
surrounding nature...*

*...spontaneously presents itself
to the members of an indigenous oral community"...*







...it was also difficult for native minds
to figure that when white men:

*"...focus their eyes upon these printed marks,
they immediately hear voices..."*

*...spoken words, and witness strange scenes
or visions... even experience other lives!*

*As inanimate elements speak to natives,
the "inert" letters on the page speak to white men!"*

David Abram, 1996



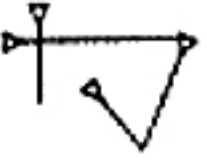

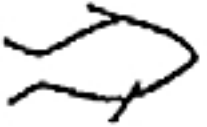




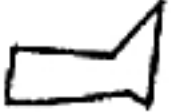

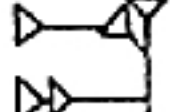





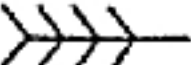



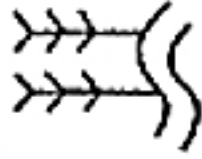

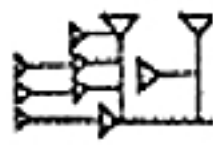
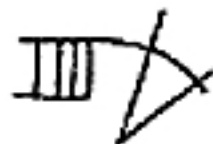


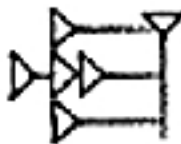
DON'T READ THIS!

Animism, isn't it?

"For a long time, I went to bed early. Sometimes my candle scarcely out, my eyes would close so quickly that I did not have time to say to myself: 'I'm falling asleep'. And, half an hour later, the thought that it was time to try to sleep would wake me; I wanted to put down the book I thought I still had in my hands and blow out my light; I had not ceased while sleeping to form reflections on what I had just read, but these reflexions had taken a rather peculiar turn; it seemed to me that I myself was what the book was talking about"...

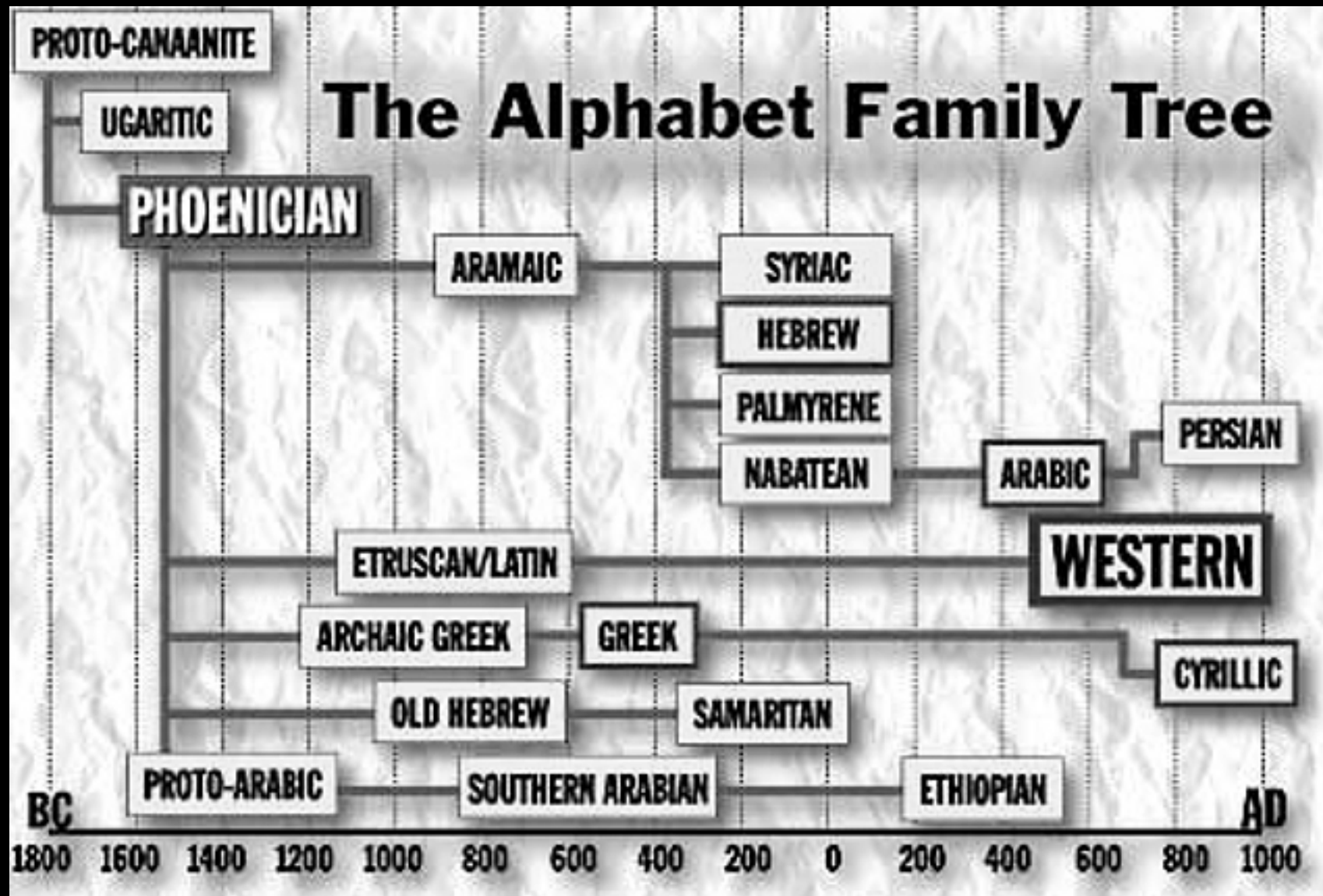
Marcel Proust (1871-1922), The Way by Swann's, 1913

The history of the advent of
the alphabetic writing is a long one...

bird				
fish				
foot				
sun				
grain				
orchard				
plough				

The development of Mesopotamian cuneiform script

The Alphabet Family Tree



Modern Roman	A	B	G	D	E	F	Z	H		I	K	L	M	N		O	P		Q	R	S	T
Early Latin	A	B	<	▷	E	F	Z	H		Ʒ	K	L	M	N		O	Γ		Q	P	Ʒ	T
Greek	Α	Δ	Γ	Δ	Ξ	Α	Ζ	Η		Ζ	Χ	Ι	Υ	Υ		Ο	Π		Φ	Ρ	Σ	Τ
Phoenician	𐤀	𐤁	𐤂	𐤃	𐤄	𐤅	𐤆	𐤇	𐤈	𐤉	𐤊	𐤋	𐤌	𐤍	𐤎	𐤏	𐤐	𐤑	𐤒	𐤓	𐤔	𐤕
Early Aramaic	𐤀	𐤁	𐤂	𐤃	𐤄	𐤅	𐤆	𐤇	𐤈	𐤉	𐤊	𐤋	𐤌	𐤍	𐤎	𐤏	𐤐	𐤑	𐤒	𐤓	𐤔	𐤕
Nabatian	𐤀	𐤁	𐤂	𐤃	𐤄	𐤅	𐤆	𐤇	𐤈	𐤉	𐤊	𐤋	𐤌	𐤍	𐤎	𐤏	𐤐	𐤑	𐤒	𐤓	𐤔	𐤕
Arabic	ل	ا	ب	ت	ث	ج	د	ذ	ر	ز	ح	ط	ظ	ع	ف	ق	ك	خ	گ	ن	س	ي

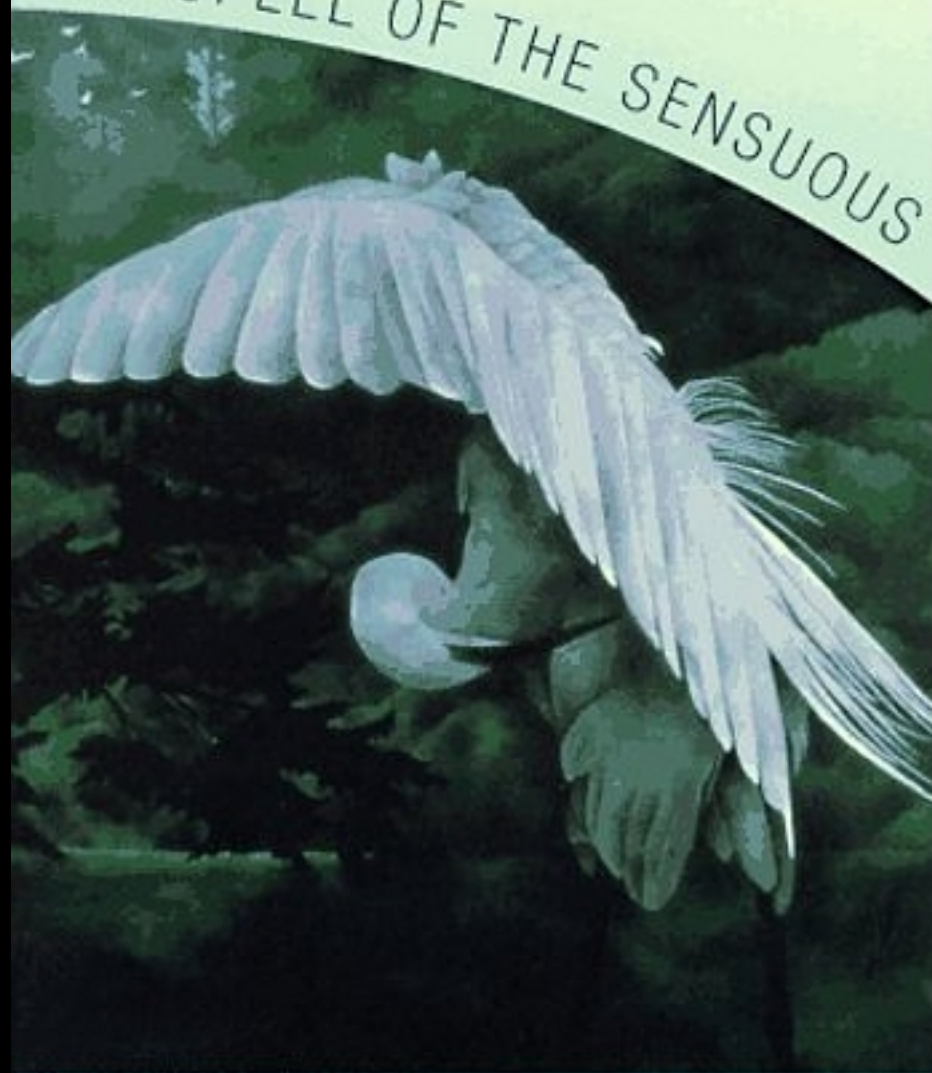
But according to the already quoted
David Abram
(1957-)
ecologist, philosopher, and magician...



"I know of no work more valuable for shifting our thinking
and feeling about the place of humans in the world."

—James Hillman, author of *The Soul's Code*

THE SPELL OF THE SENSUOUS



DAVID ABRAM

"One of the hundred visionaries who are changing the world." —*Utne Reader*

...a most crucial moment
in Western history...

...was the transition from
the Phoenician "aleph-beth"...

Z
Zayin
Weapon

W
Waw
Hook

H
He
Window

D
Daleth
Door

G
Gimel
Camel

B
Beth
House

'
Aleph
Ox

N
Nun
Fish

M
Mem
Water

L
Lamedh
Ox-Goad

K
Kaph
Palm of Hand

Y
Yodh
Hand

T
Teth
Unknown

H
Heth
Fence

T
Taw
Mark

SH
Shin
Tooth

R
Resh
Head

Q
Qoph
Monkey

S
Sadhe
Fishhook

P
Peh
Mouth

'
Ayin
Eye

S
Samekh
Support

...and the Semitic "aleph-beth"...

Vav

Hay

Daled

Gimmel

Vet

Bet

Aleph

Final Chaf

Chaf

Kaf

Yud

Tet

Chet

Zayin

Ayin

Samech

Final Nun

Nun

Final Mem

Mem

Lamed

Resh

Kuf

Final Tsadee

Tsadee

Final Fay

Fay

Pay

Taf

Taf

Sin

Shin

...to the Greek alphabet!

A	Alpha	K	Kappa	T	Tau
B	Beta	Λ	Lambda	Υ	Upsilon
Γ	Gamma	Μ	Mu	Φ	Phi
Δ	Delta	Ν	Nu	Χ	Chi
Ε	Epsilon	Ξ	Xi	Ψ	Psi
Ζ	Zeta	Ο	Omicron	Ω	Omega
Η	Eta	Π	Pi		
Θ	Theta	Ρ	Rho		
Ι	Iota	Σ	Sigma		

A crucial moment...
but the oldest traces of the Greek alphabet...

:ΕΥΡΟΤ
:ΡΟΤΕΡ
ΕΛΕΙ:ΚΑΛΕΝΤ

:ΡΟΤΕΡΙΟ
:ΑΥΤ
ΚΑΚΕΝΟΝ

Ο:ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΑ
ΝΗ

ΝΕΣΤΟΡΟΣ
ΒΟΔΑΤΟΔΕΡ
ΒΙΜΕΡ

ΝΕΣΤΟΡΟΣ:ΕΡΡΟΙ:ΕΥΡΟΤΟΜ:ΡΟΤΕΡΙΟΝ
ΒΟΔΑΤΟΔΕΡΙΕΖΙ:ΡΟΤΕΡΙΟ:ΑΥΤΙΚΑΚΕΝΟΝ
ΒΙΜΕΡΟΣ:ΒΑΙΡΕΖΕΙ:ΚΑΛΙΣΤΕΦΑΝΟ:ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΑ
ΝΗ

...are inscriptions
on a wine cup and a wine jug!





And they are
about euphoria...

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ ΑΚΑΗ



...and the power
of Aphrodite's beauty!



*"Nestor's cup I am, good to drink from.
Whoever drinks this cup empty..."*

*...straightaway the desire
of beautiful-crowned Aphrodite will seize".*







At the time
of these first written inscriptions
(around 735 B.C.E.),

...Greek nature is:

*"still felt to be mysteriously animate and alive...
filled with immanent powers".*

David Abram, op cit.





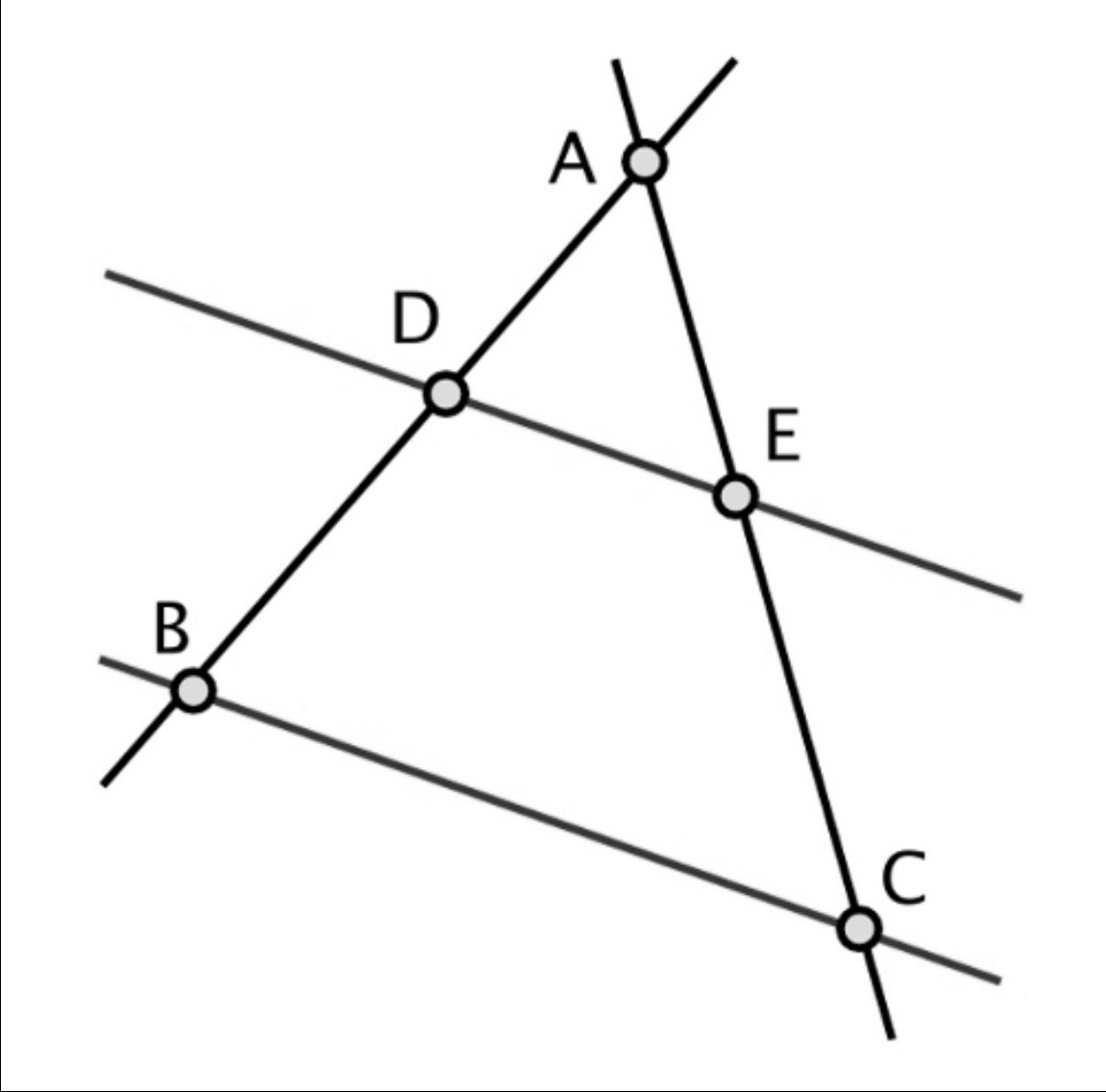






Even Thales of Miletus
(ca. 624 BC – ca. 546 BC),

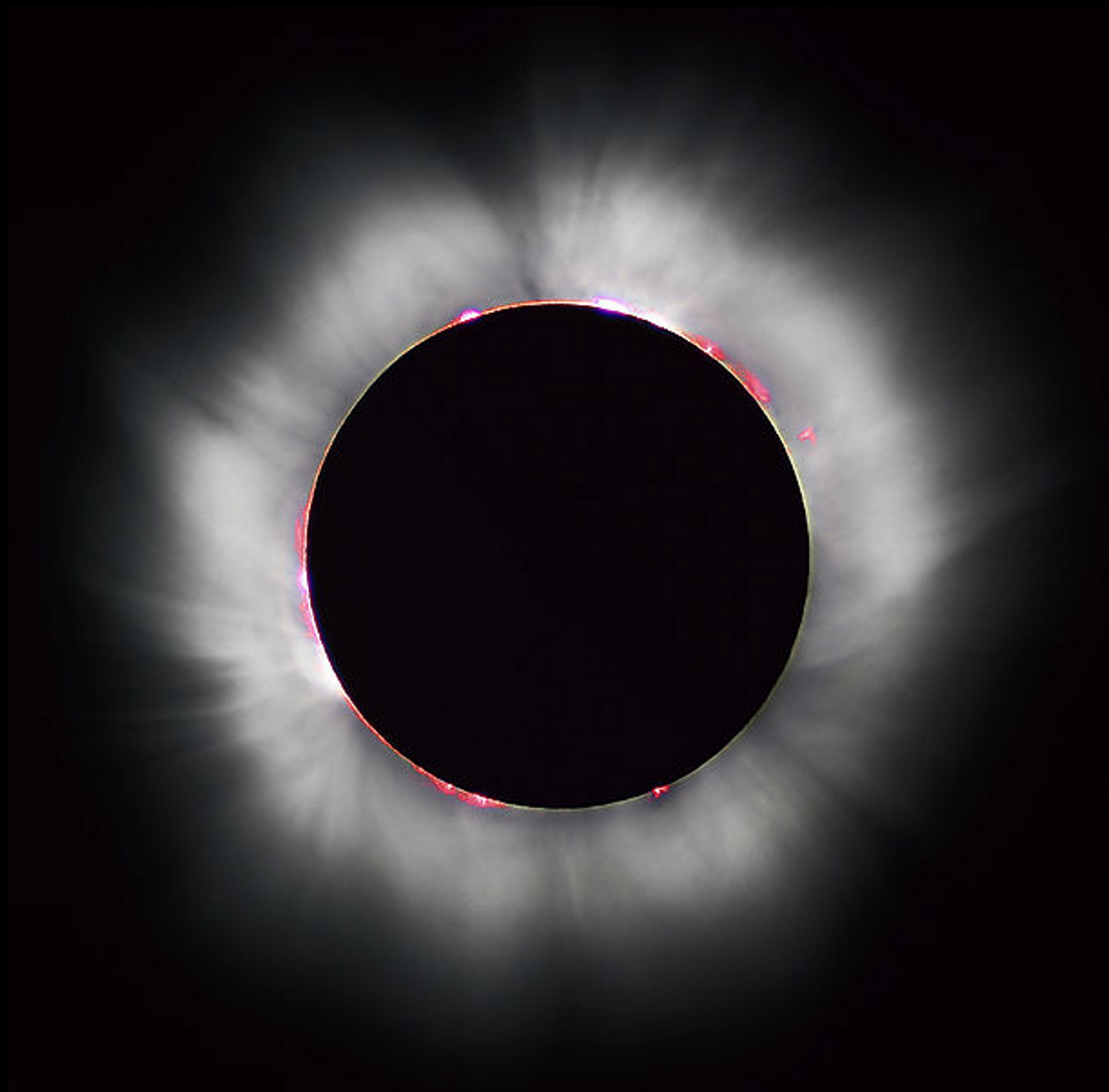




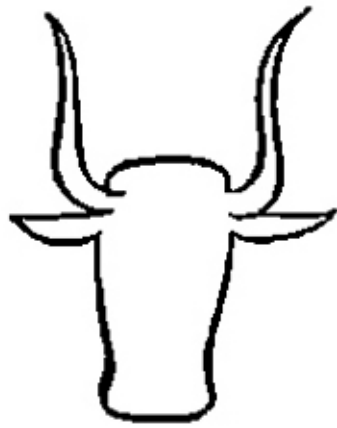
...considered as
the first Greek philosopher and mathematician...

...could still profess:

"All things are full of Gods"



Yet, with the transformation
of this written sign...



Egyptian Apis



Phoenician Aleph



Greek Alpha

...a new relation with
the surrounding Earth comes into existence!

For the Phoenicians
and the Hebrews, "Aleph"...

- the name of their first letter -
also means "Ox"...



D
Daleth
Door



G
Gimel
Camel



B
Beth
House



ʾ
Aleph
Ox

...and thus refers to a sensorial entity
commonly imaged by the letter.





LES ANIMAUX DE LA FERME



CHAROLAIS



CAMELINE



FRISE



MASERATI



FRISE



JERSEY



LANDRACE



NORMAND



BRETONNE



NORMAND



NORMAND



NORMAND



FRISE



NORMAND



NORMAND

With the Greeks,
"Aleph" becomes "Alpha"...

...which, however, has no sensorial reference at all.

Alpha is just Alpha...

...the name
of the first letter of their alphabet!

A

*"With the advent of the Greek alphabet,
a new distance opens between human culture..."*

*...and the rest of nature
(...)
the written characters...*

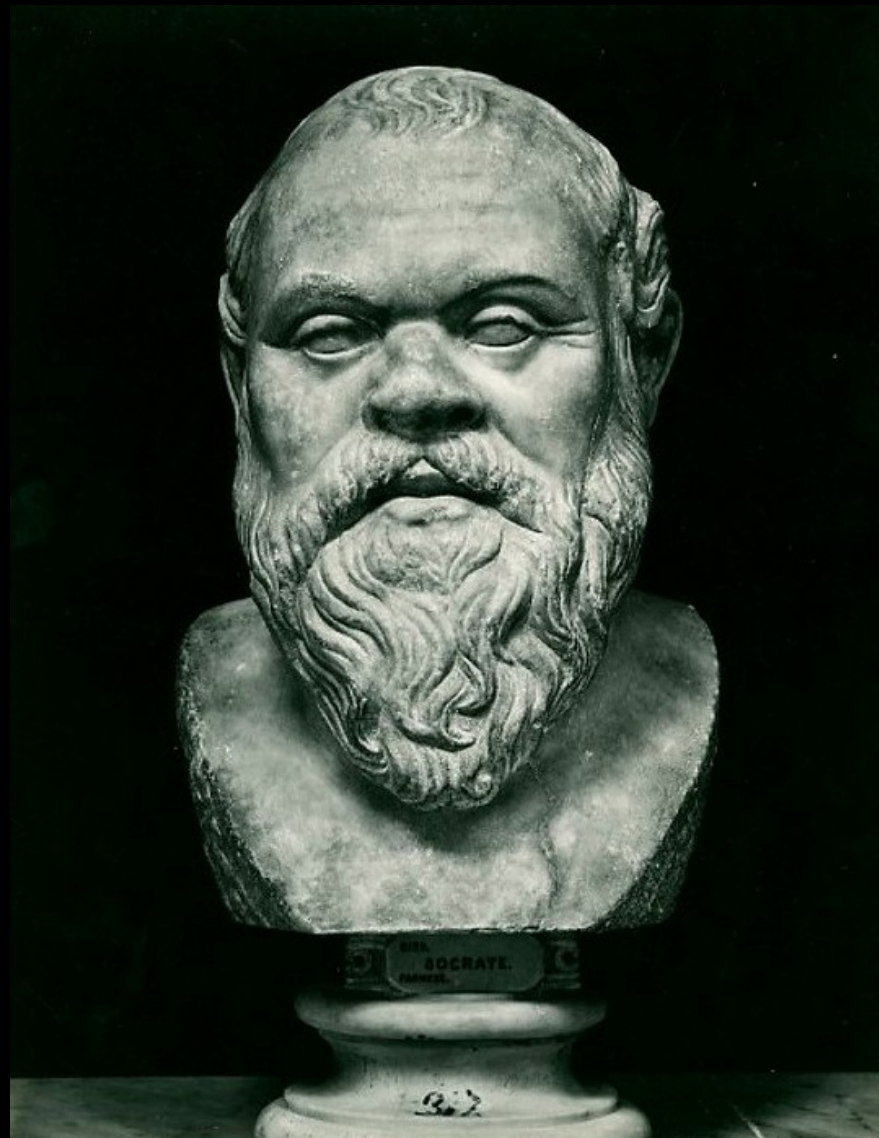
*...no longer refer us
to any sensible phenomenon out in the world (...)*

*...but solely to a gesture to be made
by human mouth.*

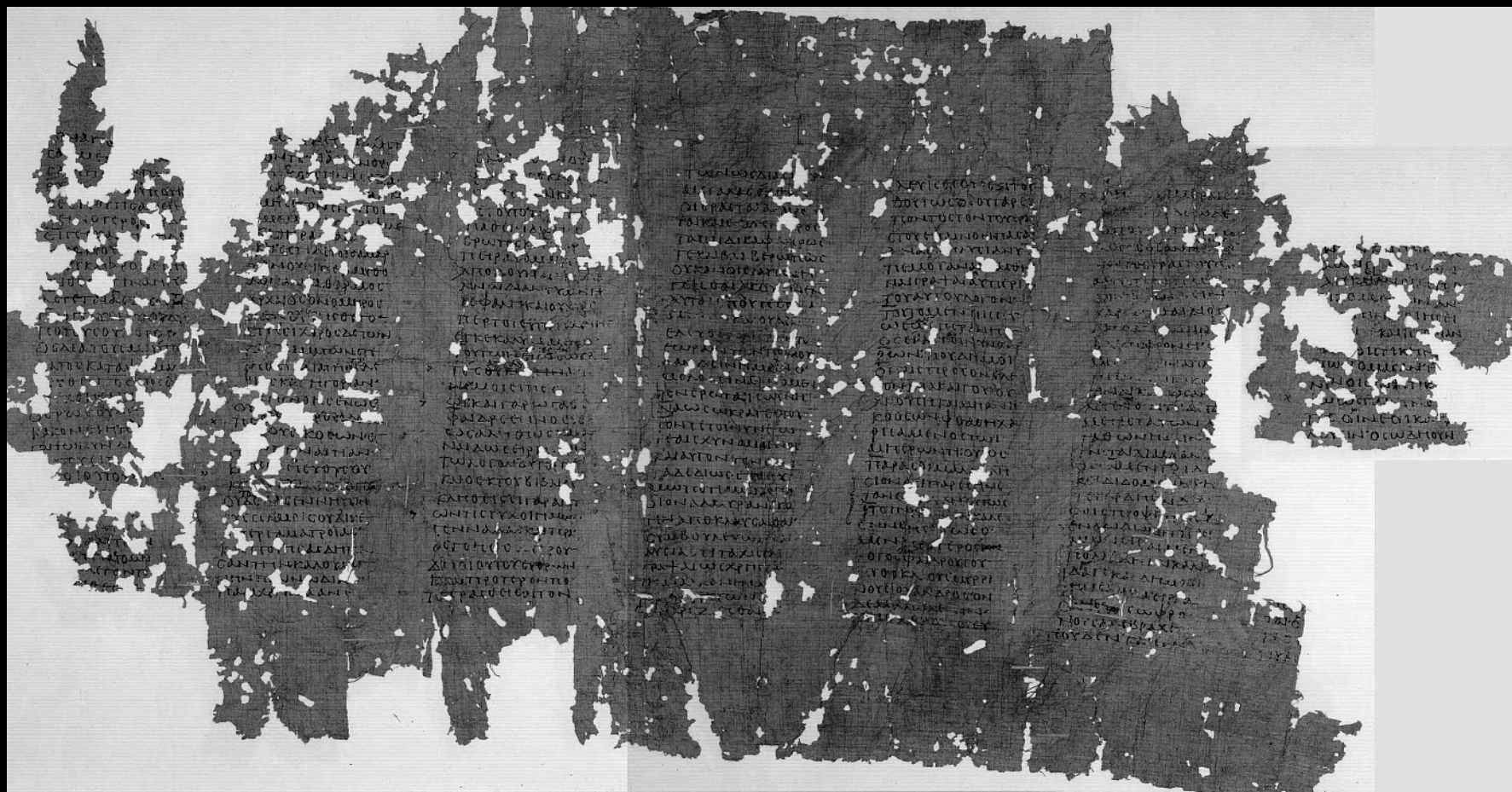
David Abram, op cit.

...BREATHE...

And so Socrates
(469 BC – 399 BC),



...the wise and legendary father
of Western philosophy...



...is a witness, in his "dialogues",
of this new and radical cultural change:

*"I'm a lover of learning,
and trees and open country..."*

*...won't teach me anything,
whereas men in the town do"*

Socrate / Plato, Phaedrus, around 370 BC



Forests are cut down.

Gods and Goddesses are fired...



Earth becomes silent.



*"A new power of reflexivity
was thus
coming into existence..."*

*...borne
by the relation between
the scribe and his scripted text"*

David Abram, op cit.

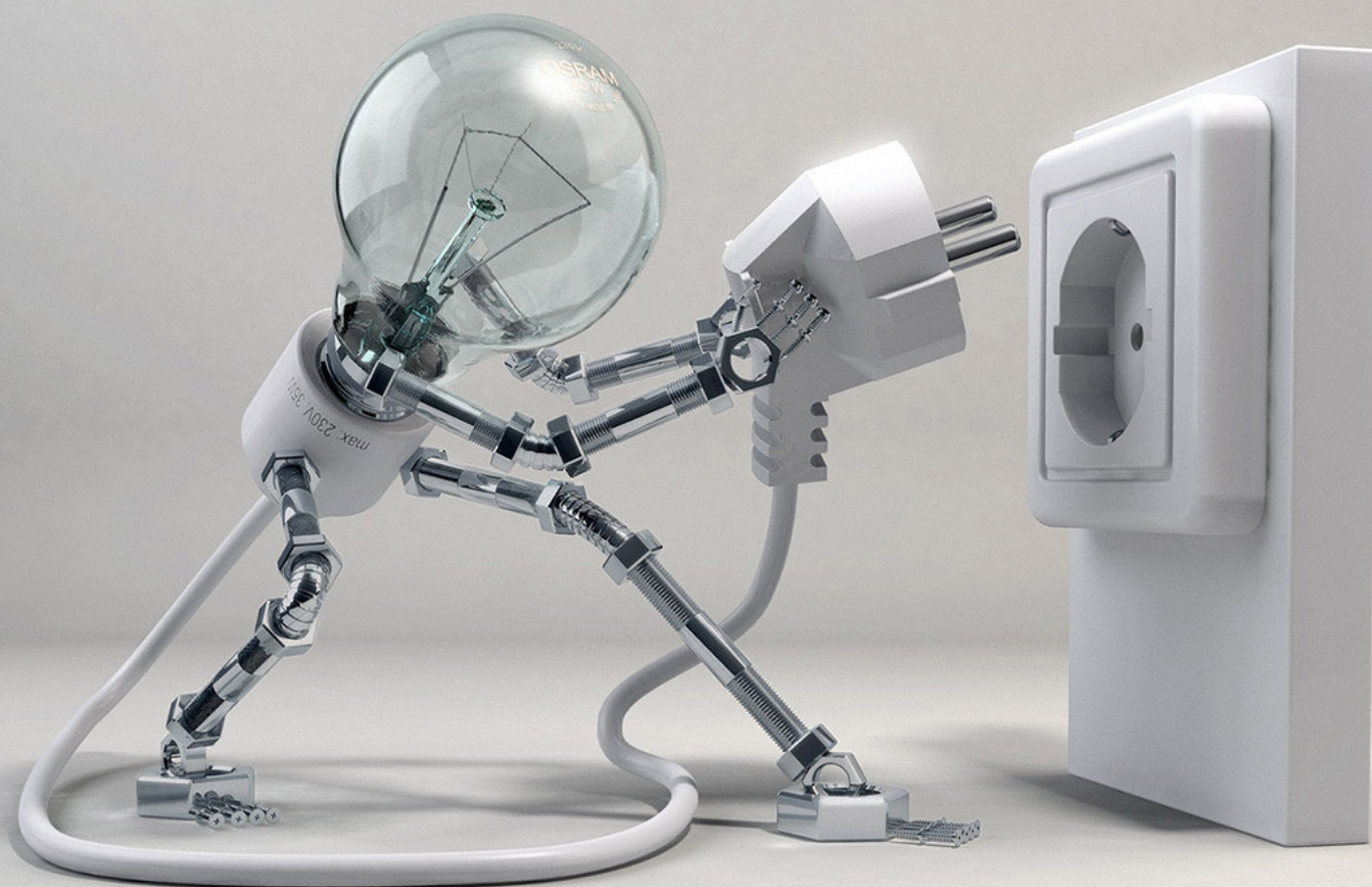
P

PS

PSY

PSYCHÊ





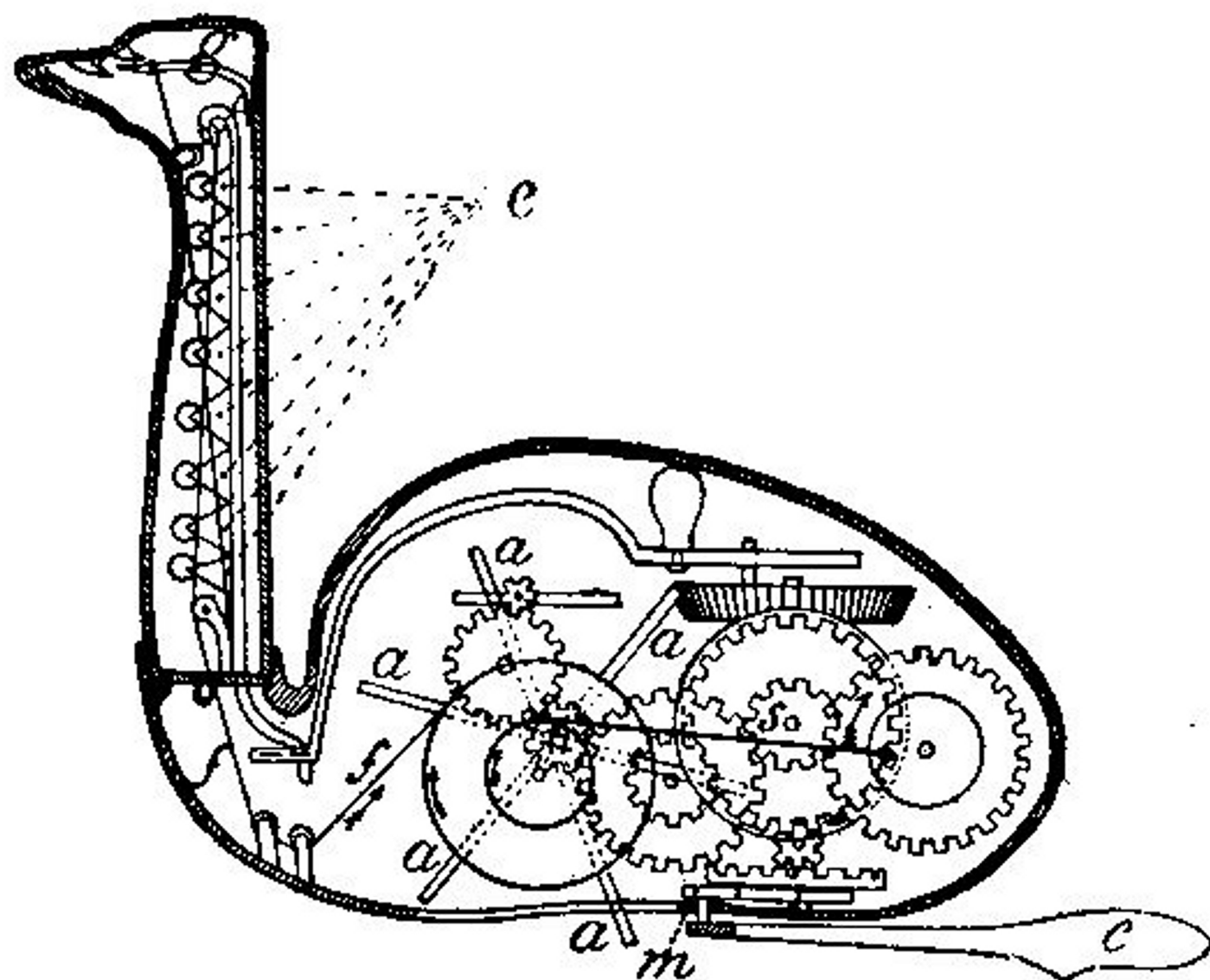
COGITO, ERGO SUM

A few centuries later,
René Descartes (1596 – 1650),

...considered as the founder
of Modern philosophy...



...stated what has become one of
the most reductionist dogmas of Western thoughts.



Le canard : *a*, roues à palette ; *c*, patte palmée ; *e*, châssis, *f*, corde à boyau ; *g*, ressort ; *m*, levier horizontal ; *s*, pignon.

He claimed
that animals are like machines...



...only moved by "animal spirits"
- by reflexes.

No initiatives,
no feelings...



It was a consequence of his new theory of the human soul or the "res cogitans":

DISCOURS
DE LA METHODE

Pour bien conduire la raison, & chercher
la verité dans les sciences.

PLUS
LA DIOPTRIQUE.
LES METEORES.
ET
LA GEOMETRIE.

Qui sont des essais de cete METHODE.



A LEYDE
De l'Imprimerie de IAN MAIRE.
M D C C C X X V I I .
Avec Privilège.

...if some "cogitatio"
had been attributed to animals,

...how then to deny the immortality of the soul
even to... oysters or mushrooms!



For "the delicious shellfish",
who may know?

But for mushrooms...



...a single *Armillaria mycelium*
has found the way to colonize an area of 9 km².

It has been estimated to be
2,400 years old!



So becoming the world's
largest and oldest known organism...

Not bad
for a soulless fungus!



However, among the – alas - numerous
heirs of Descartes, one of the most famous...



...Burrhus F. Skinner
(1904-1990)

has spent his entire life refining and promoting...

...his "major contribution to animal psychology":

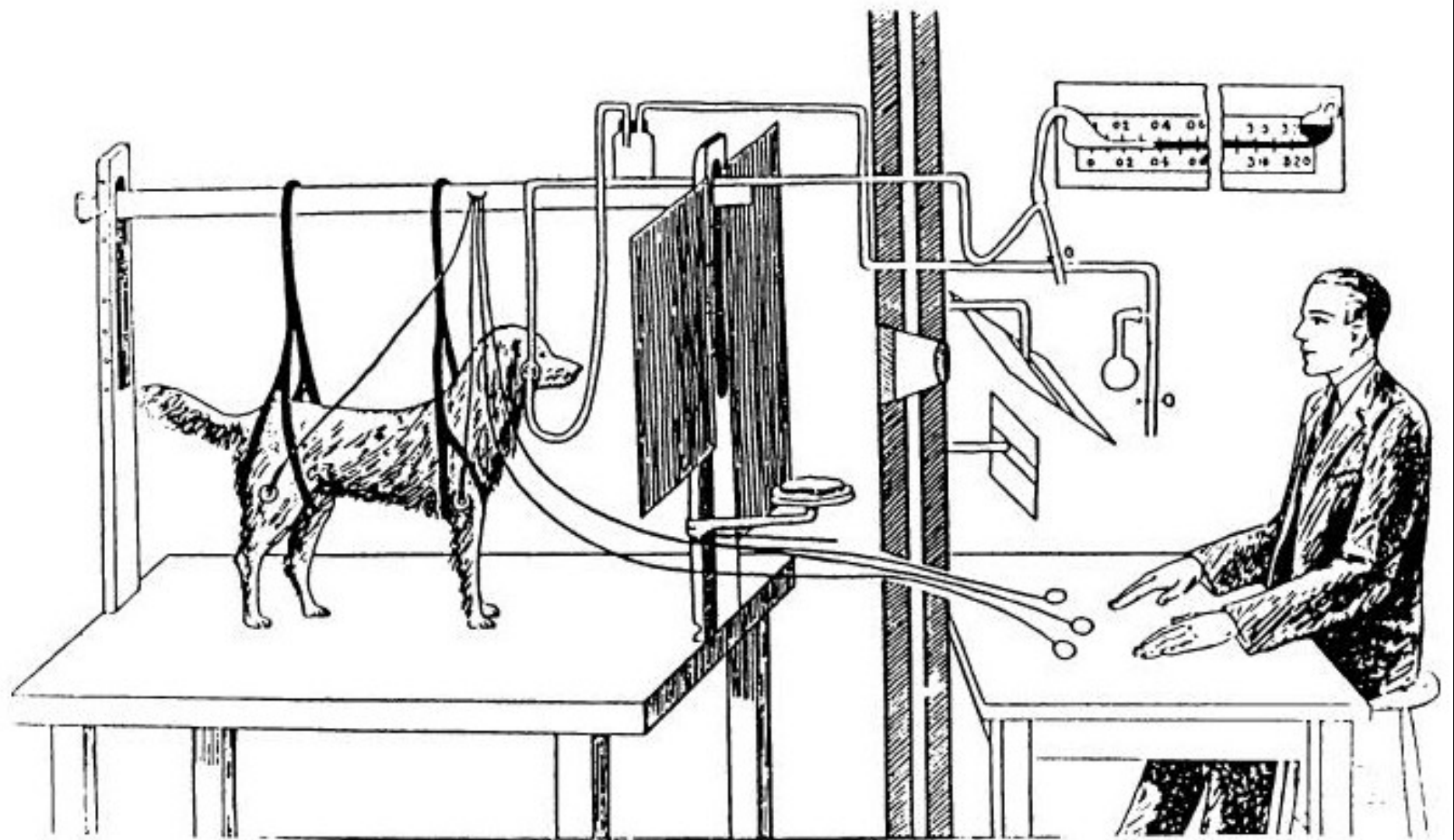
$$S \rightarrow R \rightarrow C$$

Stimulus \rightarrow Response \rightarrow (operating) Conditioning

He argued against the classical Pavlovian model:

$$S \rightarrow (I) \rightarrow R$$

Stimulus \rightarrow (Individual as a black box) \rightarrow Response

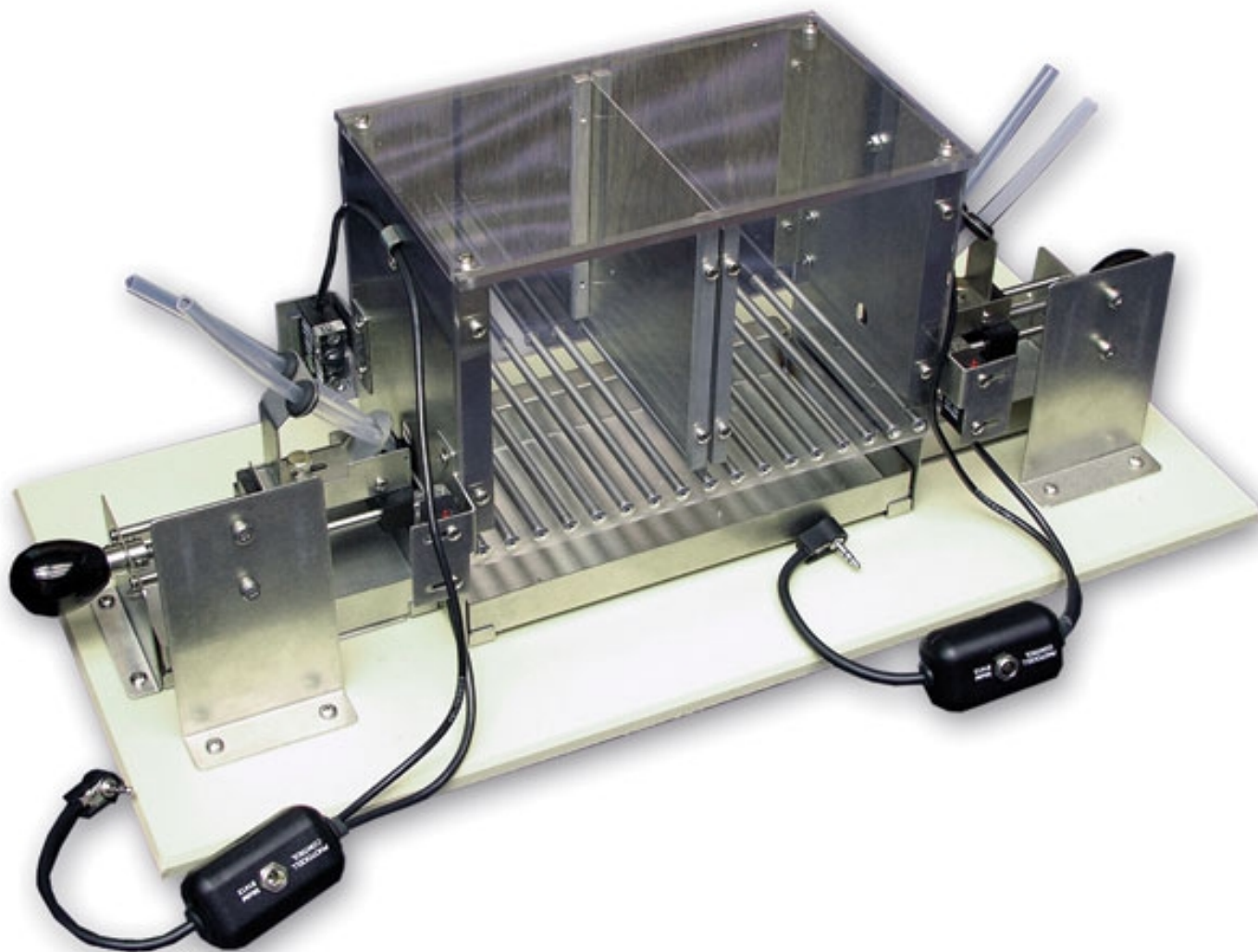


For Skinner, even in his beloved mechanistic world,
animated beings are not only driven by reflexes...

...they also possess, to a certain extent,
a capacity to learn and improvise!

But how to study such "intangible" capacities
when standard behaviorist theory states that...

...there are no accesses of any sort
to the thoughts and beliefs of animated beings?

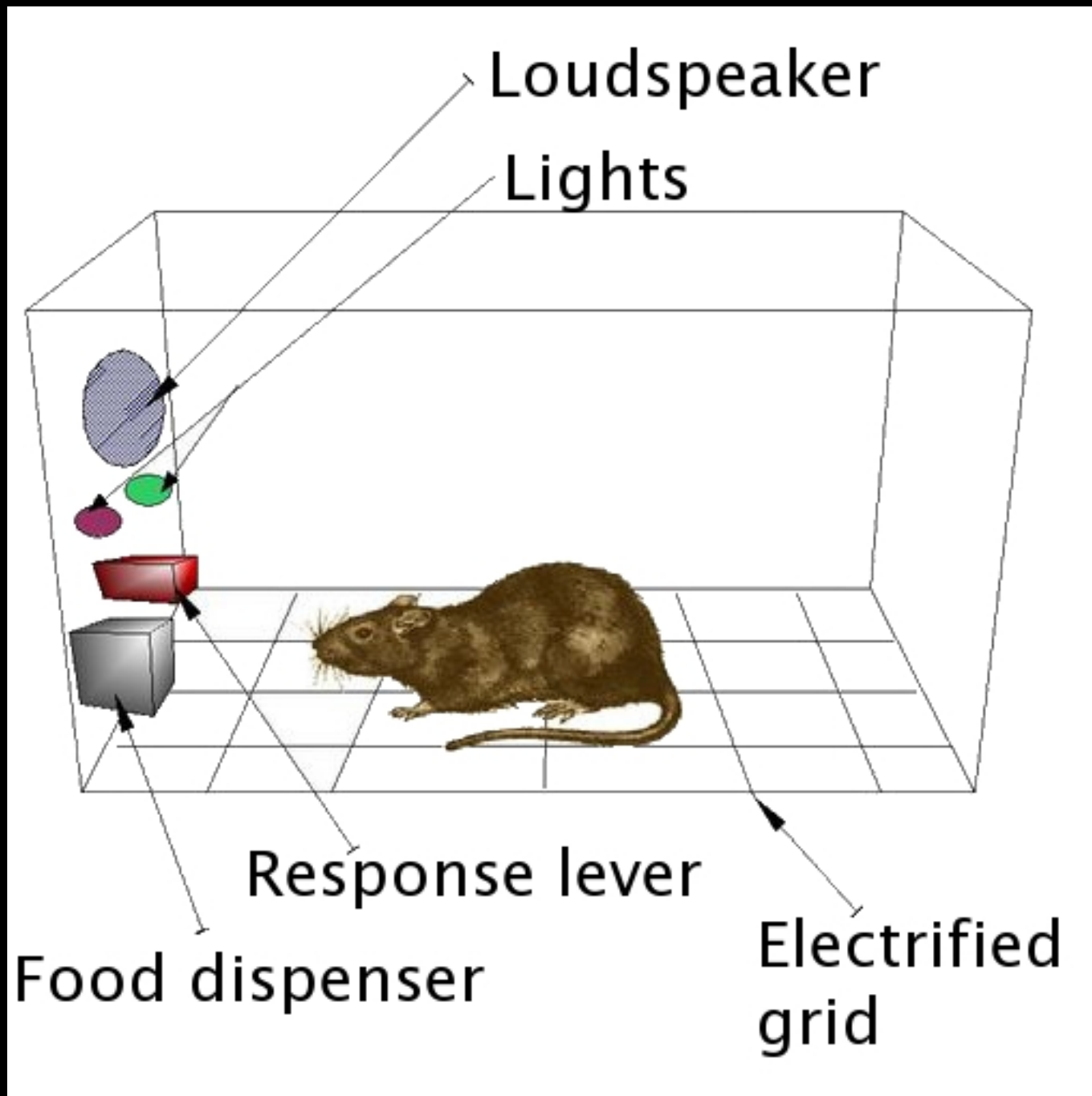


To elucidate animal psychology
scientists can only measure visible behaviors,

...so Skinner sets up boxes that show
that behavior can be learned by conditioning!



For example a rat is trained
to obtain food by actioning a "response lever"...



...when a sound is playing and a green light is on!

It did well?

Reinforcement: food is provided!

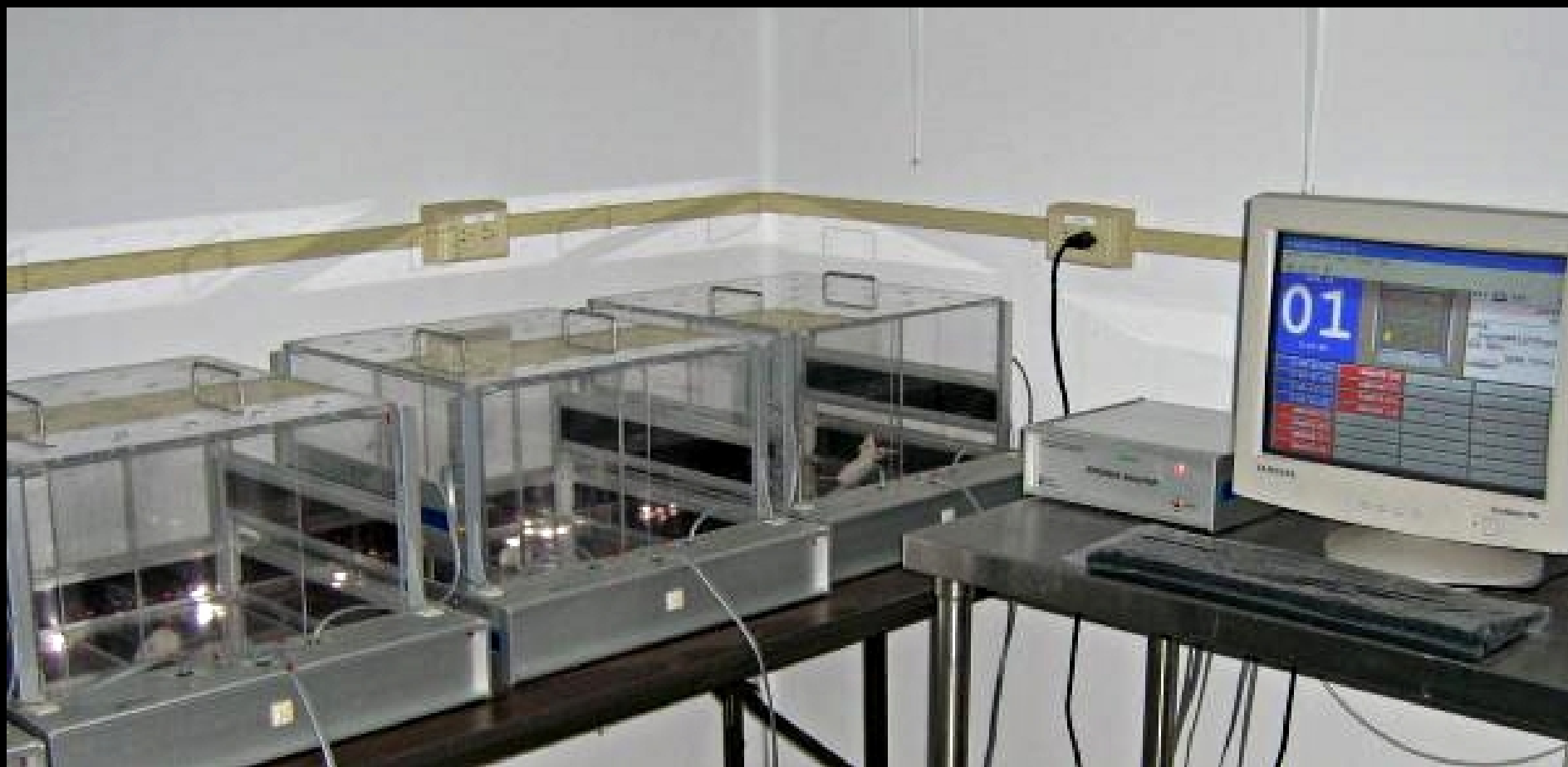
Did it wrong (e.g. when the red light is on)?

Punishment:
the electrified grill is switched on!

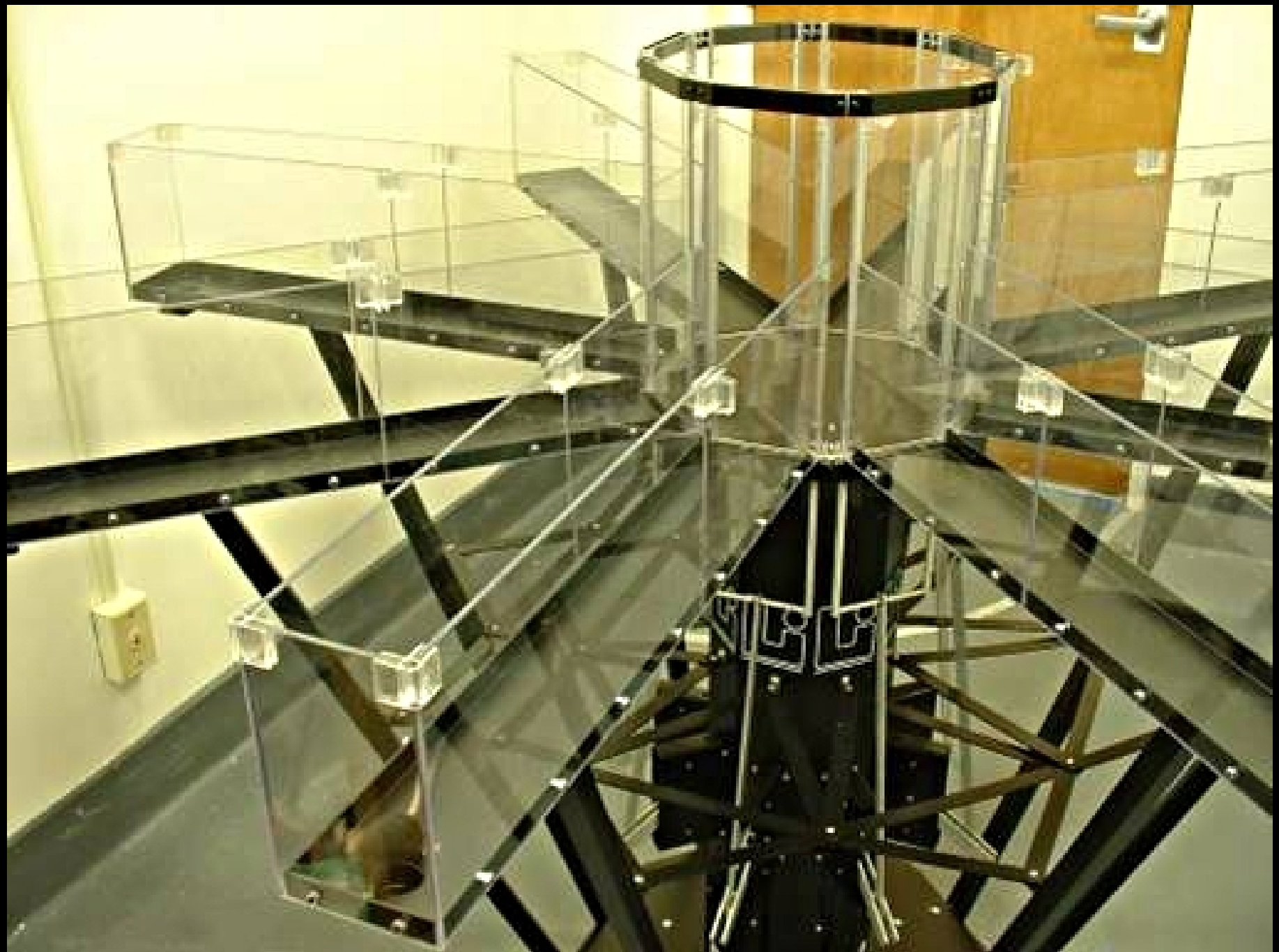


And so on... and so on: during decades.

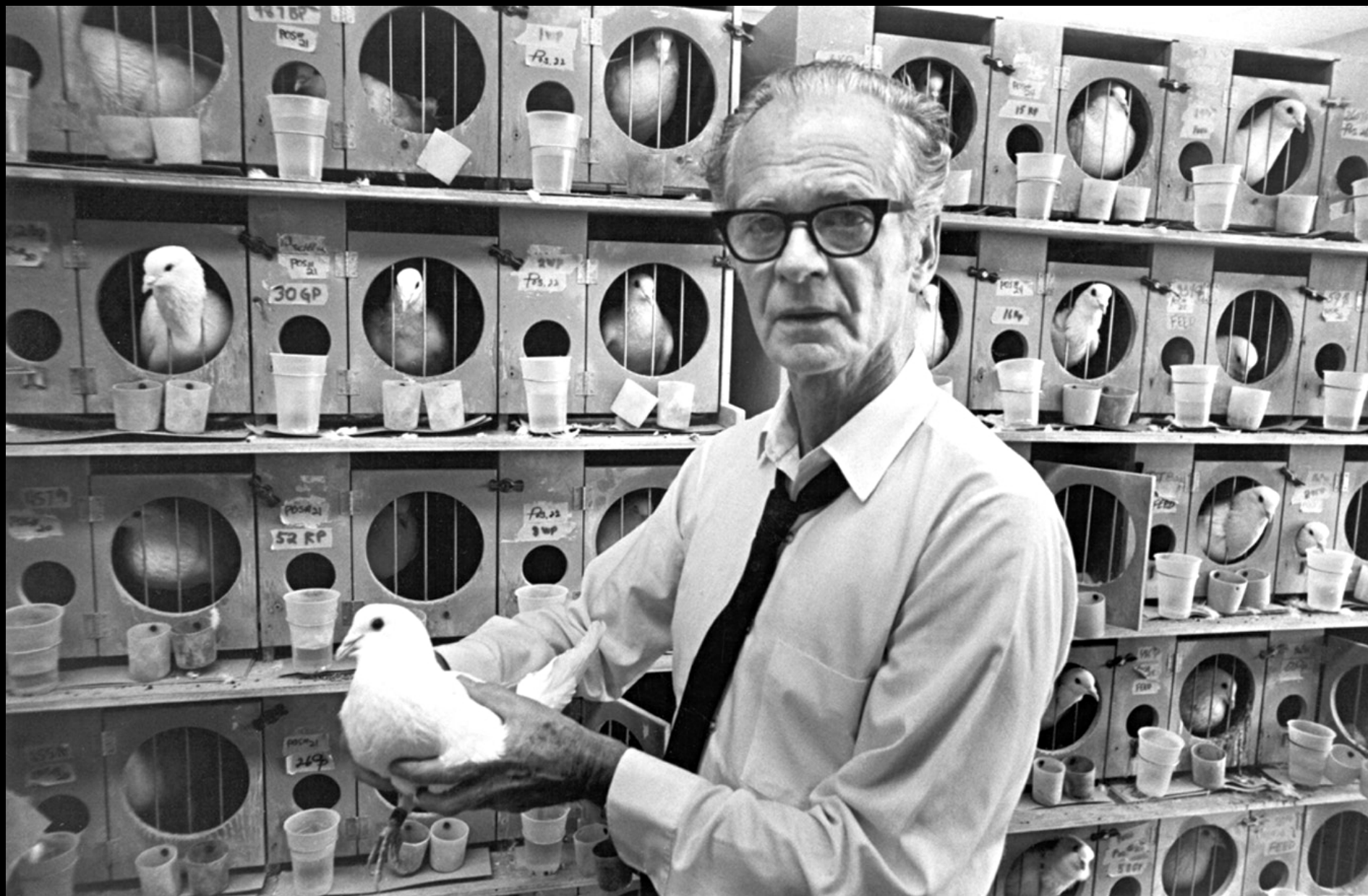
Changing that, correlating this...



...learning nothing about animals,
except their incredible capacity to survive...



...sacrificing thousands of rats and pigeons,
and... conditioning thousands of students!



Yet as so many know, since so long,
if one wants to obtain something from animals...

...one has simply to learn
how to politely ask them to collaborate!







Even some animal psychologists have discovered
that when they tickled their laboratory rats...

...the latter were more willing to collaborate
and experiments gave better results.



On the other hand, food industry still may hire researchers disposed to dedicate their lives...



...to create, manage and improve places
where animals will really be treated as machines!

Places which are now often seen as
a close approximation to hell...



But those "chicken and egg problems" are
since long known as particularly complex ones!



Finally, and even if it took me some time,
I guess I found an actual field...

...where the Skinner's behaviorist formula:

$$S \rightarrow R \rightarrow C$$

Stimulus \rightarrow Response \rightarrow (operant) Conditioning...

...could be directly applied
to some animated beings!



At least as effective as Skinner boxes:
the jungle of the soulless stock-exchange trade!

A close-up photograph of two adjacent keyboard keys. The key on the left is labeled 'BUY' and the key on the right is labeled 'SELL'. Both keys are a light beige or cream color with a slightly textured surface. The text is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The keys are set against a dark, possibly black, background, which makes the light-colored keys stand out. The lighting is even, highlighting the texture of the keys and the clarity of the text.

BUY

SELL

However, even in the depths
of the never-ending mechanistic era,

...some scientists' looks
at animal beings were brought to change...



They had to learn awareness...









They had to learn seeing
ingeniousness and beauty in all details...









They had to learn to distinguish
coordination from randomness...



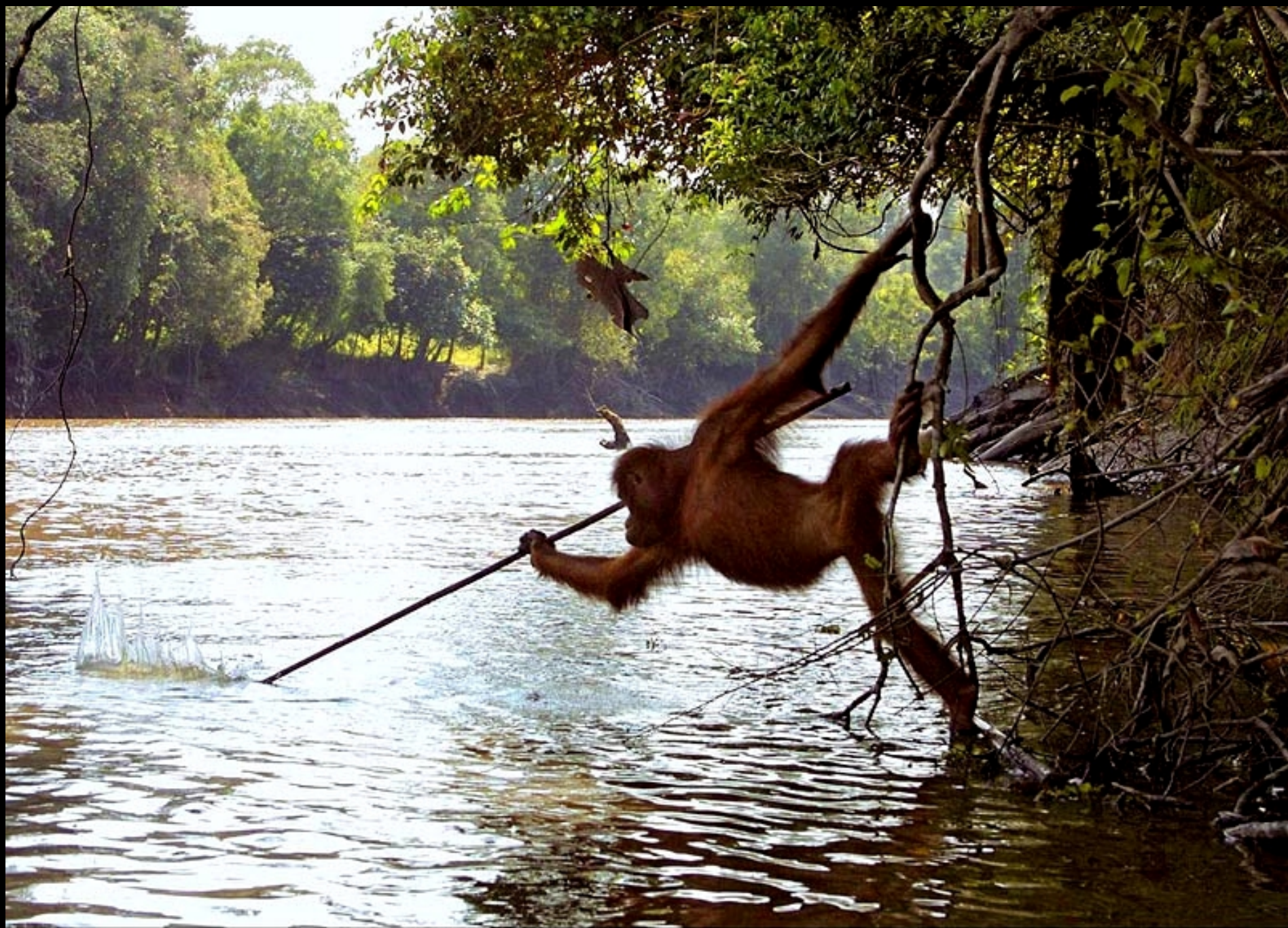






They had to learn recognizing
cultural abilities in the use of tools...









They had to learn to celebrate
the power of the curiosity of youngsters...





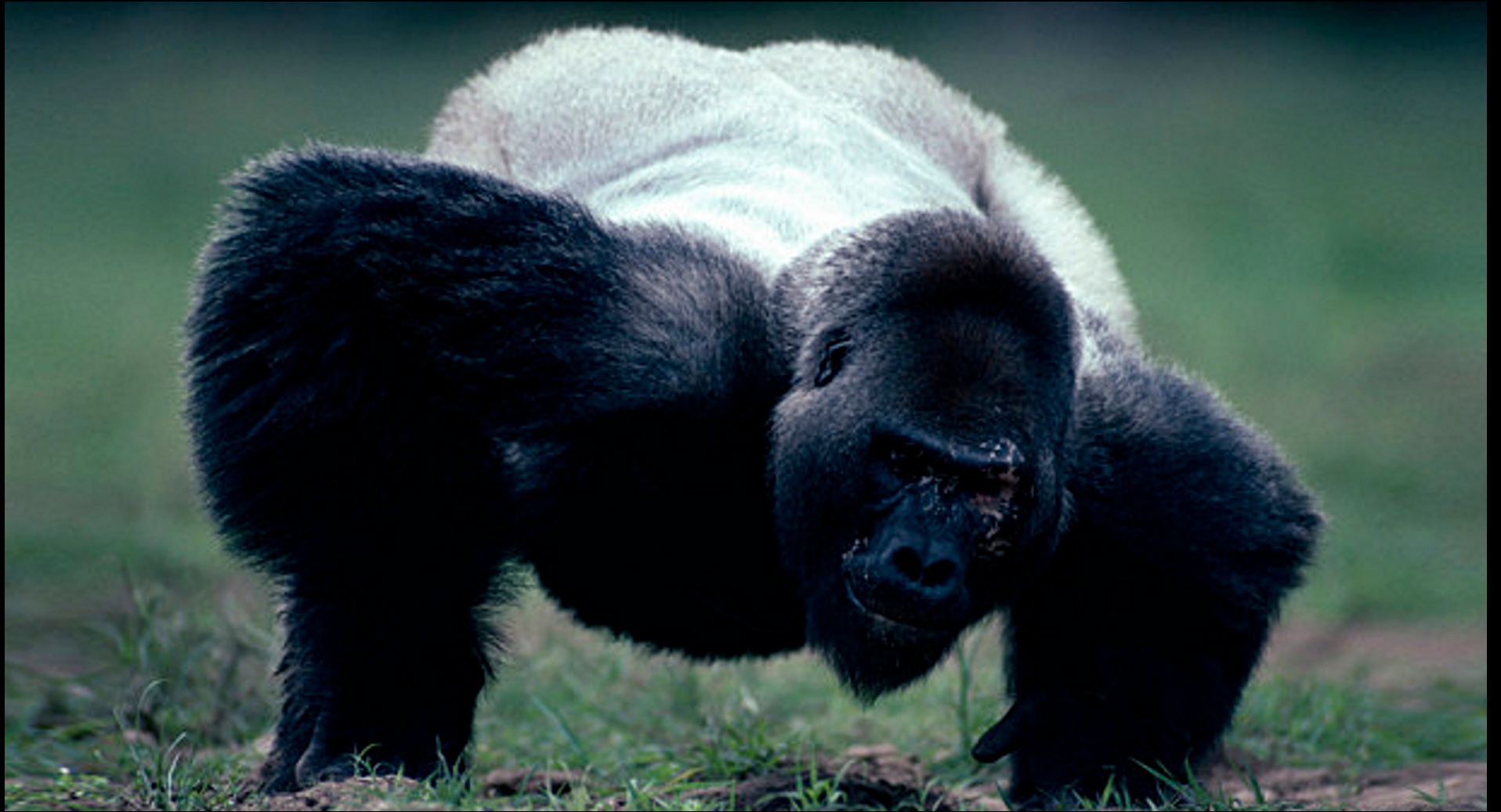






They had to learn to forget
the rule of "strictly hierarchical relations"...







For my part, if I have learned
that it was possible...

...to be the unquestioned
leader of a wolves group...

...without conforming
to the sad caricature of the "dominant"...

...it is thanks to "Yeux Clairs"
(1996 – 2008)

In Memoriam...



Learning may imply making use
of our own sense of friendship...







But learning
also implies being aware of...

...the empathic power
of our own feelings and emotions...







We had also to learn to face
our responsibility in captive animals boredom...





Finally: my personal best
Western naturalist is...

Donald R. Griffin
(1915 - 2003)



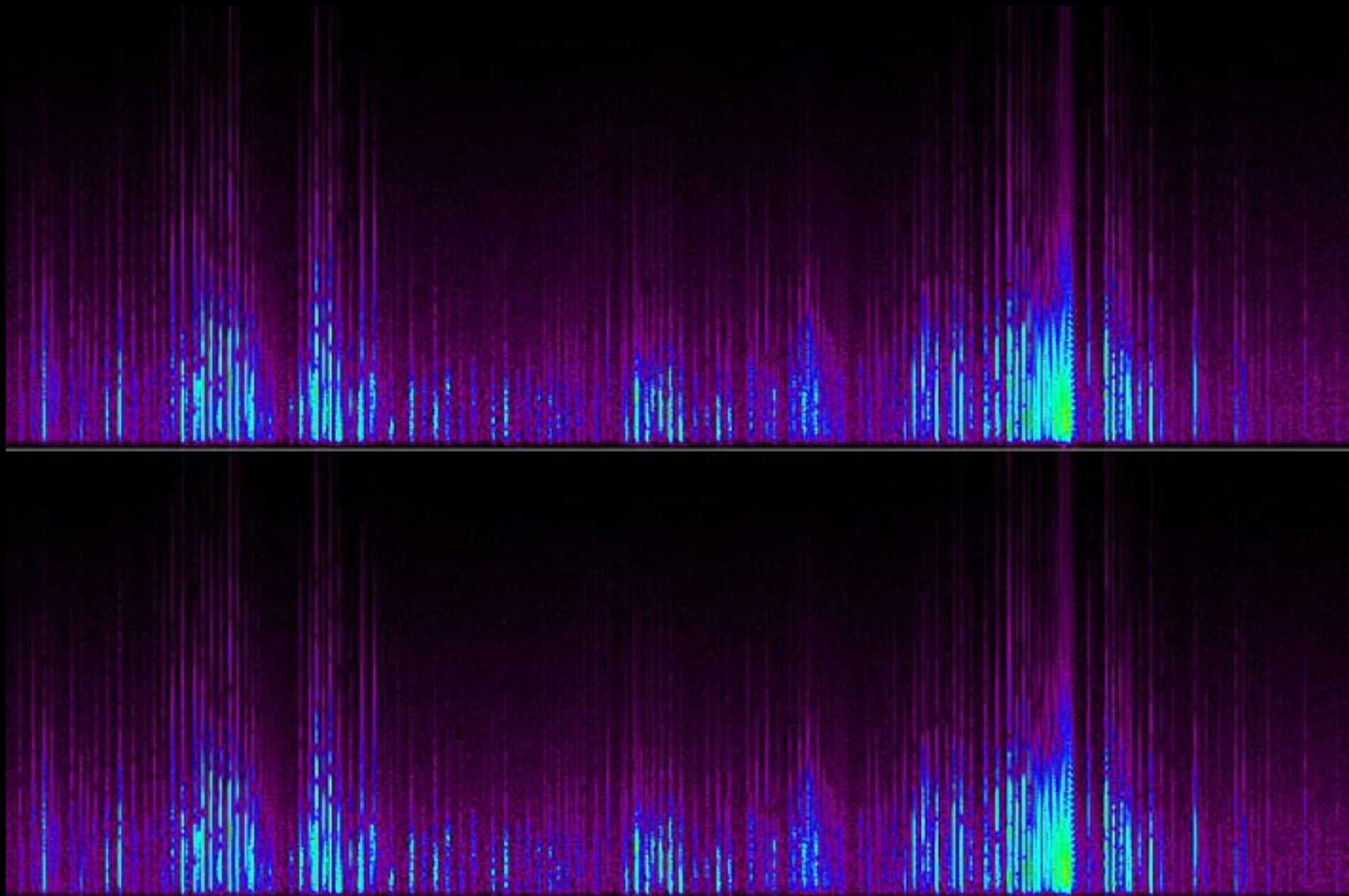


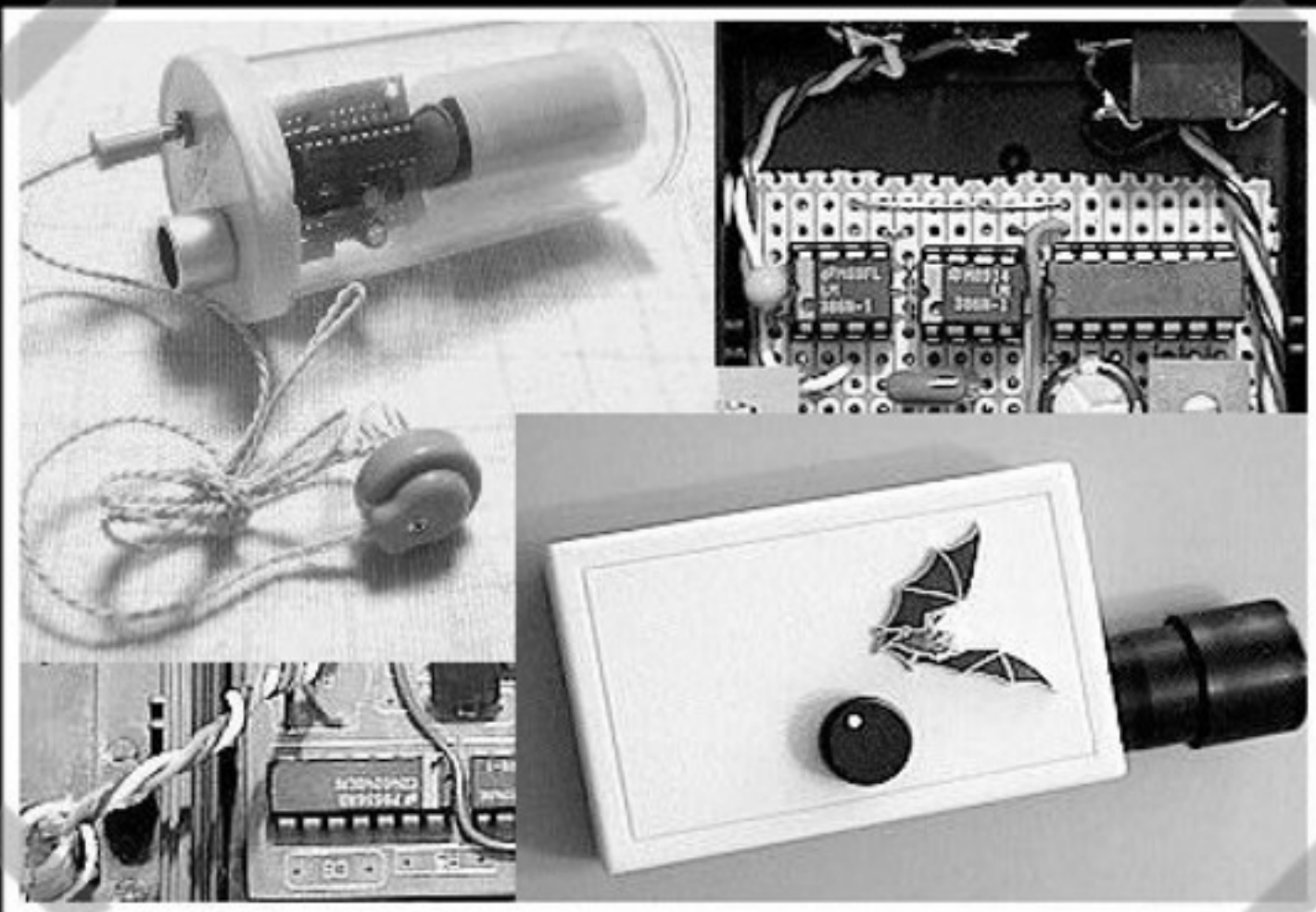
His fortune may have been
to have begun his career studying bats.

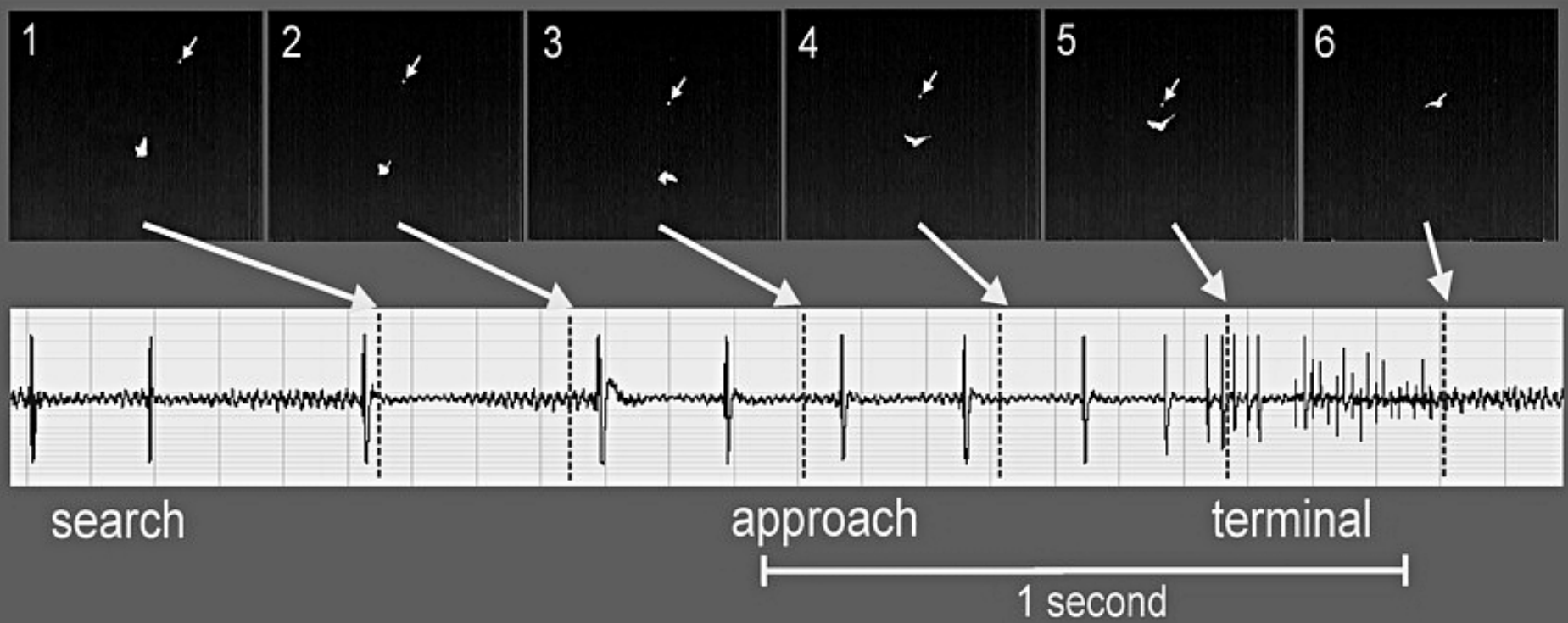


They have never ceased surprising him:
no sooner had he established...

...their ability to find their way
with the help of ultrasonic sounds...







DONALD R. GRIFFIN



Listening in the Dark

Bats, Birds, Fish, Men: how they hear their way

...that he had to recognize
they also use their sonar system...

...in order to locate their preys in the depths of
the tri-dimensional space of the night.



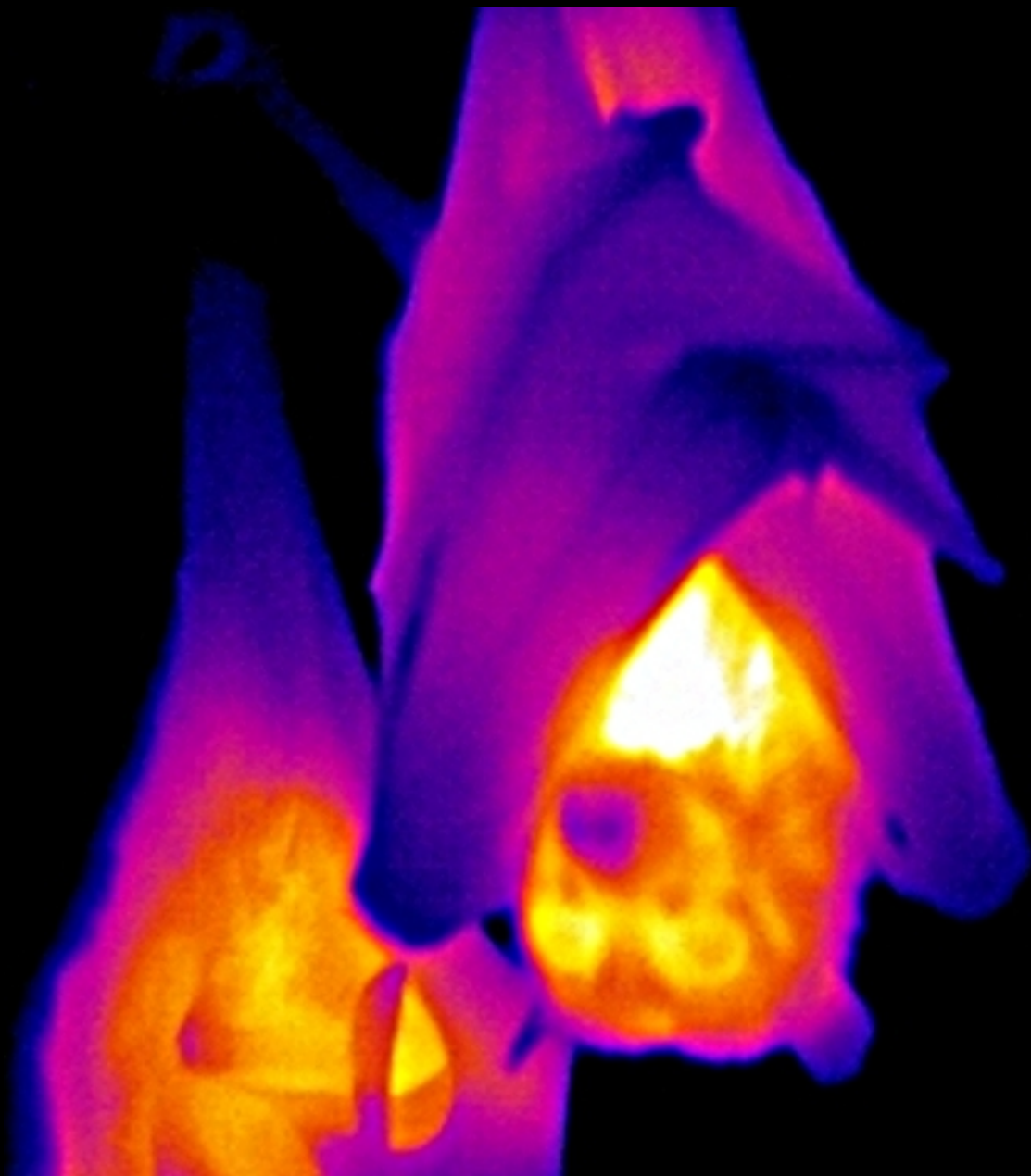
Next: intra-specific communication
and "social calls" came to the front.



Then: echolocation learning
from the mother to the youth...



It may be that it is his experience to have,
again and again,
been obliged to concede new abilities to bats,



...which has activated Griffin's passion
and search, with other animals,

...for what they have been deprived of
(in the Western academic world):

...awareness, emotions, cognition,
consciousness... minds.

ANIMAL MINDS



Donald R. Griffin

GIUSTI

*"Now that there are strong grounds to
dispute Descartes contention..."*

*...that animals lack the ability to think,
we have to ask just how animals do think.*

*Animals thoughts and emotions
presumably concern matters of immediate
importance to the animals themselves,*

*...rather than kinds of conscious thinking
that are primarily relevant to human affairs".*

Donald R. Griffin, 1994



"Wait! Wait! Listen to me! . . .
We don't HAVE to be just sheep!"

And now as an echo and an homage
to those Western naturalists...

(especially to Thelma Rowell)

...let us listen to
Eduardo Viveiros de Castro
(1951 -)
a "multinaturalist" anthropologist...



EDUARDO VIVEIROS
DE CASTRO
MÉTAPHYSIQUES
CANNIBALES



MÉTAPHYSIQUES

puf

...about his vision of
the Amerindian understanding of animals:

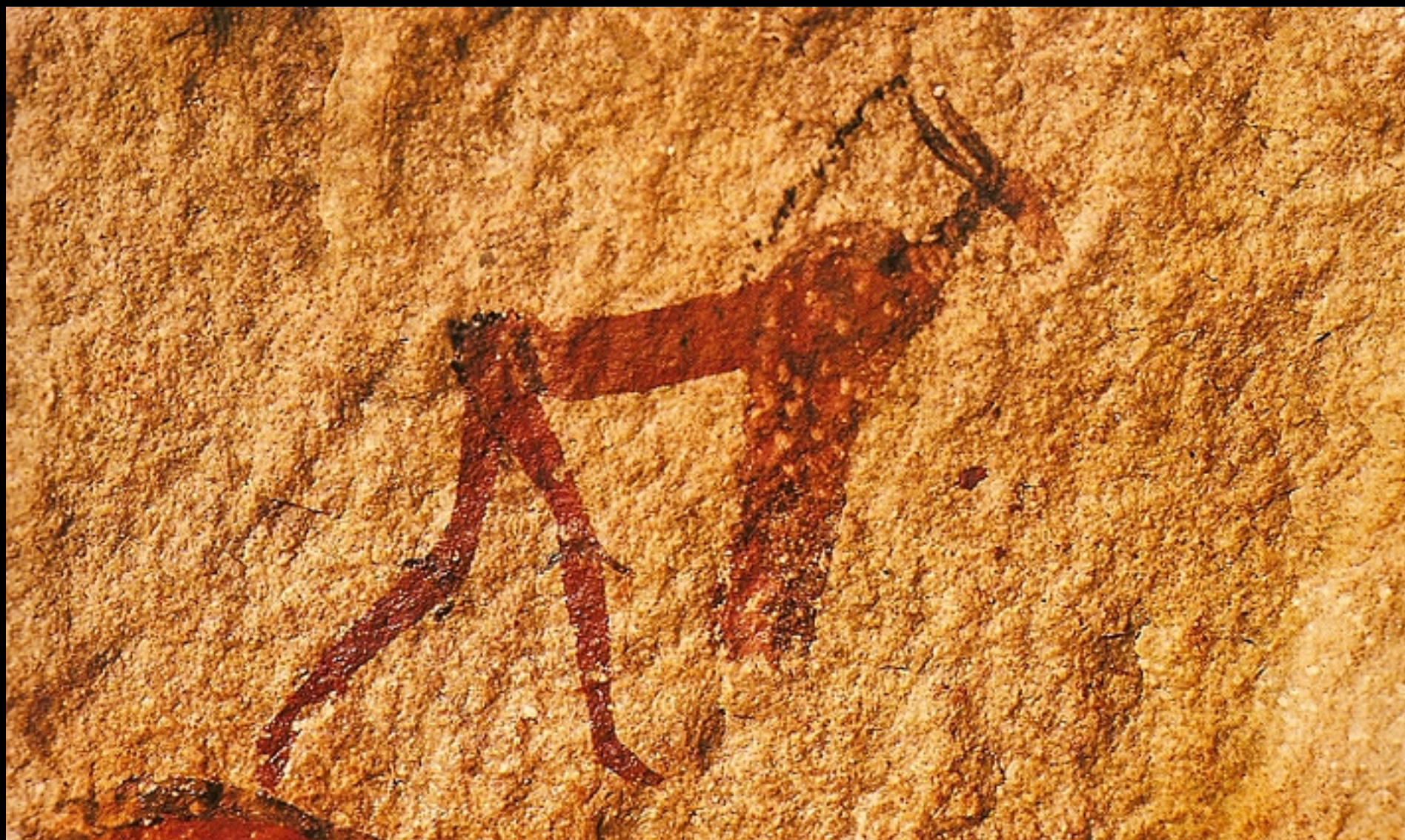
*"Animals see in the same way as we do,
things that are different from the ones we see..."*

*...because their bodies are different from ours.
I do not mean physiological differences...*

*...but affects, affections,
powers that singularize each kind of body:*

*...what it eats, the way it moves,
how it communicates, where it lives"*

Eduardo Viveiros de Castro, 1996



To me, those words possess
a distant but deep resonance with the work of...



...Jacob von Uexküll
(1864 – 1944),

and his famous - and tricky: "Umwelt"...

591.5
Ue 89

Umwelt und Innenwelt der Tiere.

Von

J. von Uexküll.

Dr. med. hon. e.



Berlin.

Verlag von Julius Springer.

1909.



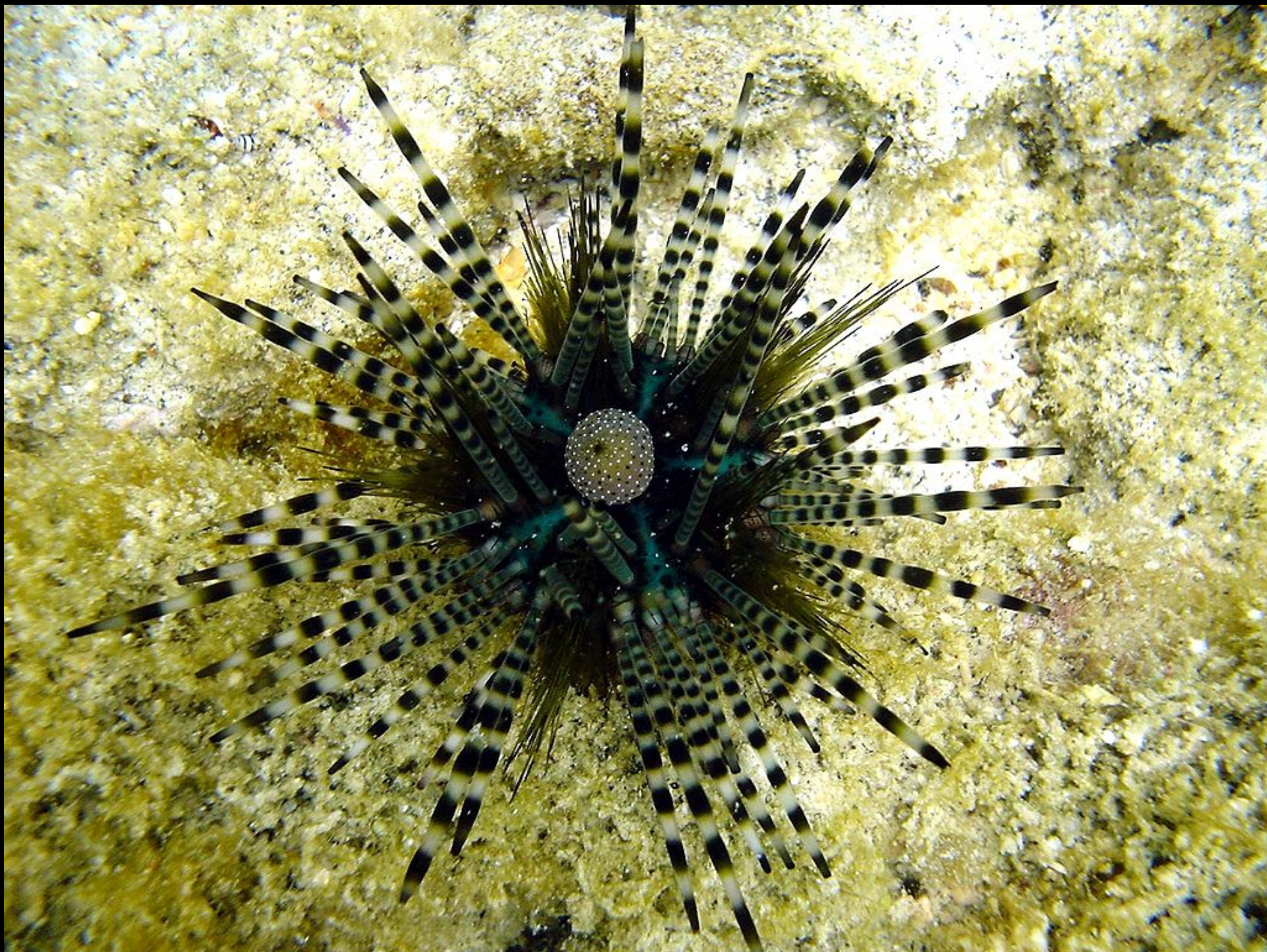
...which he has defined as:

*"...a perceptual world in which
an organism exists and acts as a subject".*

He established that *every* animated being
does possess such an "Umwelt":



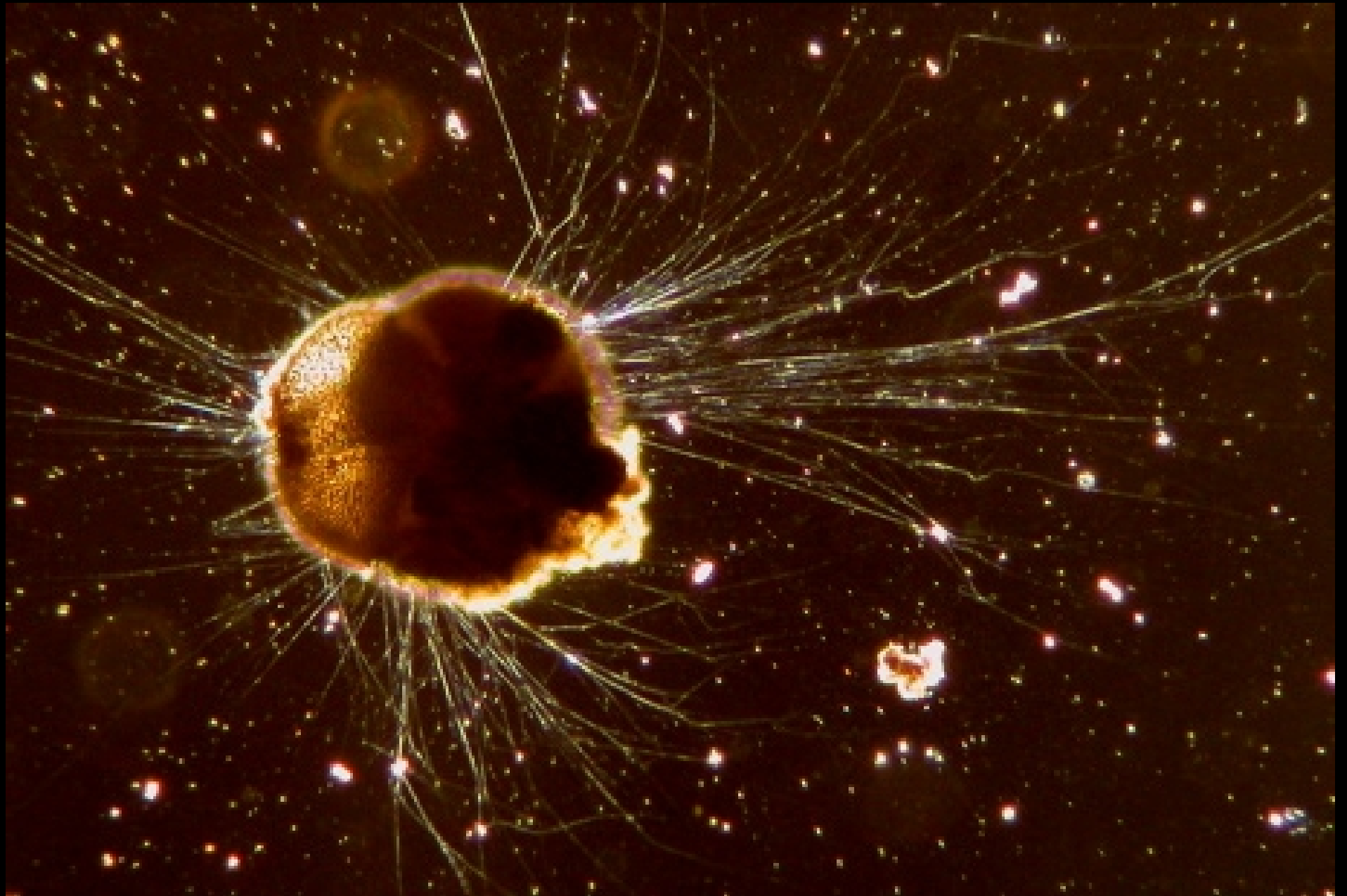
...an "environment-world" which is specific
to its own ways of acting.
Action which is in relation...



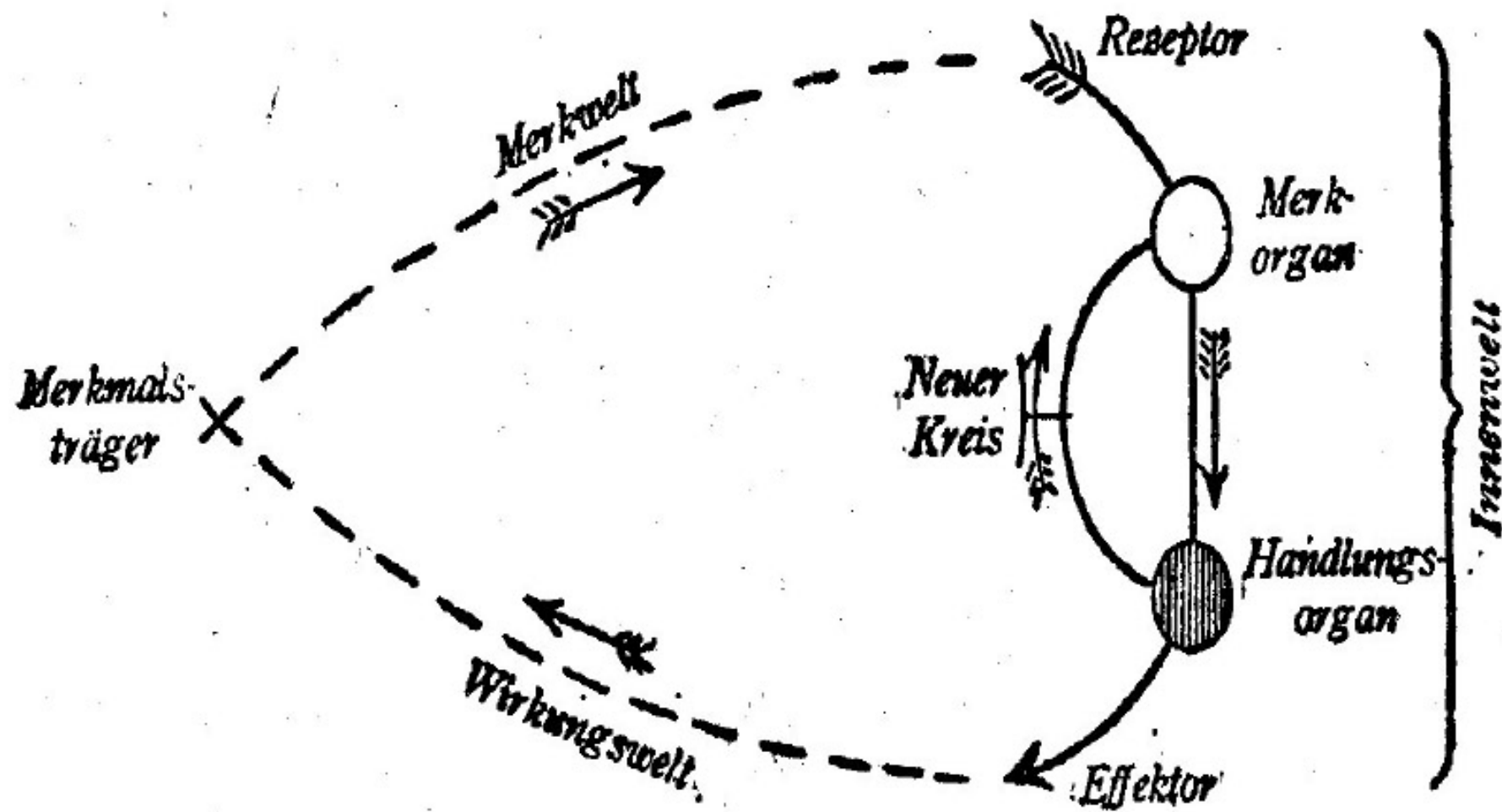
...with what its body and ability had selected as possible significances from its surroundings...



...elements to whom it has a perceiving access
(and which had in return build it as it acts now)



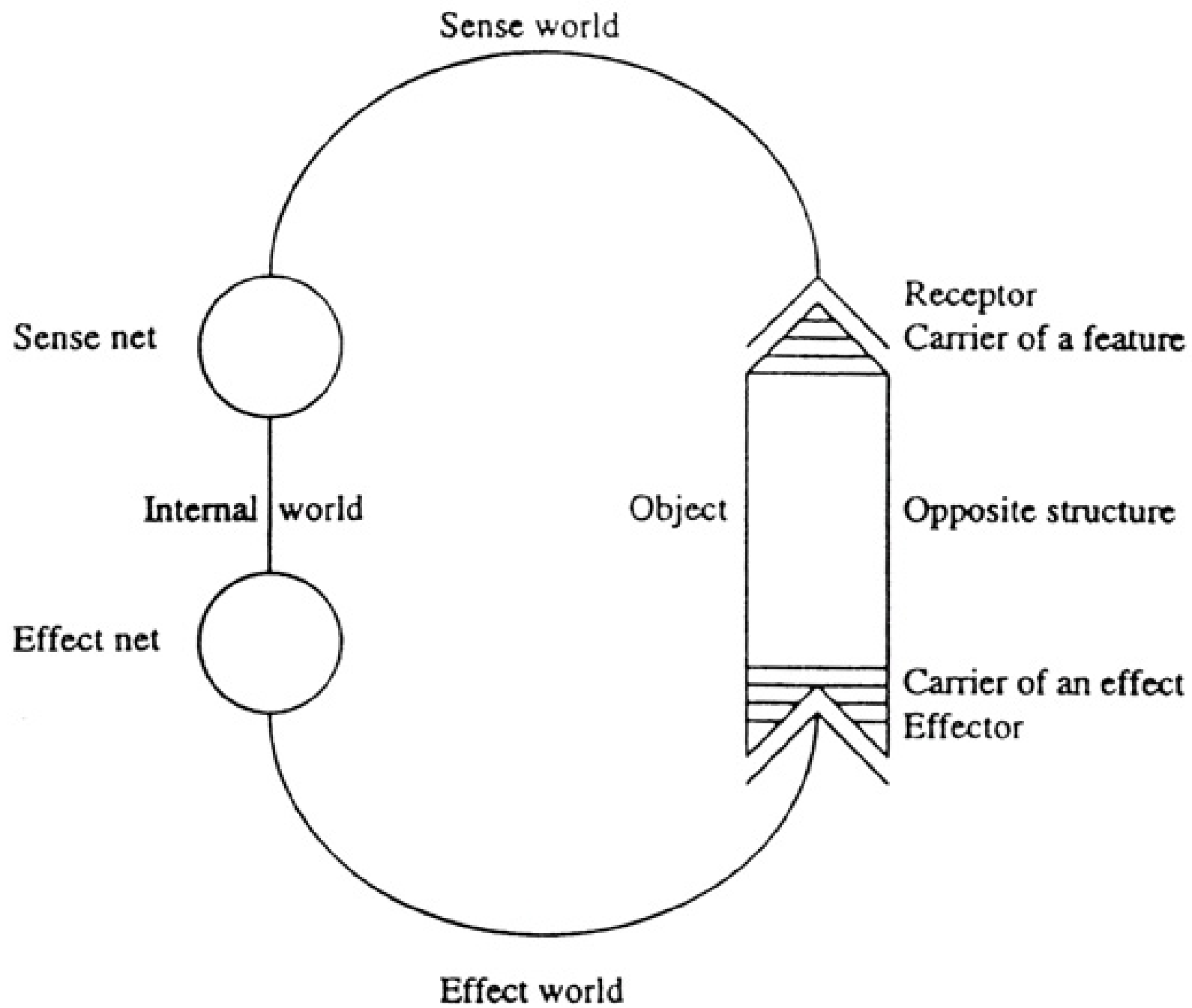
What matters to it, what affects it
and what it belongs to...



Figur 4.

For *every* animated being:

*... "its exterior is a projected interior,
and its interior is a selected exterior" ...*



And now let's have a look to some attempts of representation that von Uexküll produced himself...



Photography of a village...



The same village for fly's eyes...



Idem... but for mollusk's eyes

But even with those representations, one has to be careful: from mollusks' Umwelt, a shadow...

...is not a luminous sensation, but a tactile one
- as a light touch of cotton on its photo-sensible skin!



And for this dragonfly on its way to a branch,
that branch is not only a "perceived character",

...it also exhibits the connotation "to land" ...
which makes it distinguishable and preferable!







And even if we – "seeings-beings" - could at once
get that some preys are difficult to catch...



...on the other hand,
it's quite difficult to believe that for birds,
motionless grasshoppers...

...are not seen at all!

And this, not because they would be well disguised:



... "from the point of view of the Umwelt of birds",
"still insect's forms" simply do not exist...

...until "some-form-things" fly away!

Their (delicious) body come into existence
only through move.



And it's not only a simple question of perception:
because the same birds...

...are totally aware of others "still insect's bodies" ...
and even perfectly capable of catching them!



But, in order to exist (as birds' prey),
grasshoppers must be on the move...

...and it is this peculiar move which will specifically affect the birds (body as mind)...

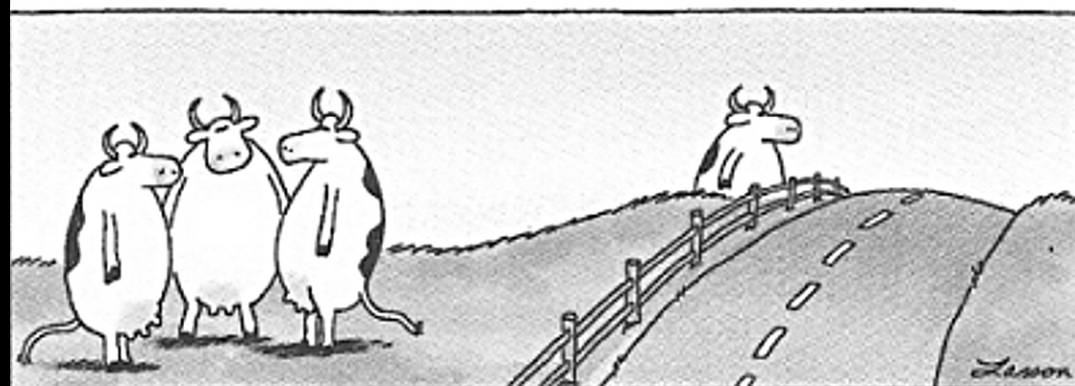
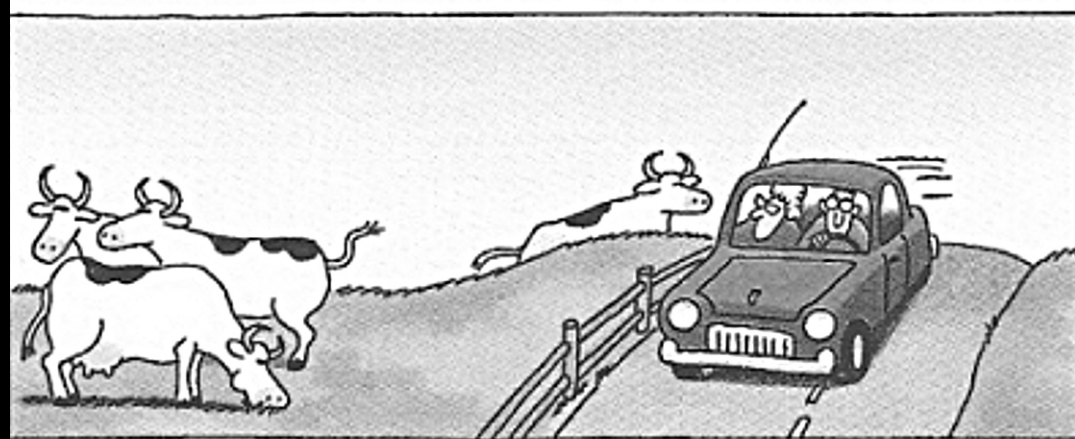
...and gives them a key – a lure - for their own move.

Such a move which is in the same time:

...perception, affect and action!



And now, closing those glimpses
on possible "More-Than-Human Earths"...



...how to explain that since the sixties,
Western anthropologists have been led...



Folkbiology

edited by Douglas L. Medin and Scott Atran

...to admit that the fundamental taxa
recognized in "folk systematics"...



...correspond fairly closely
with scientifically known species?

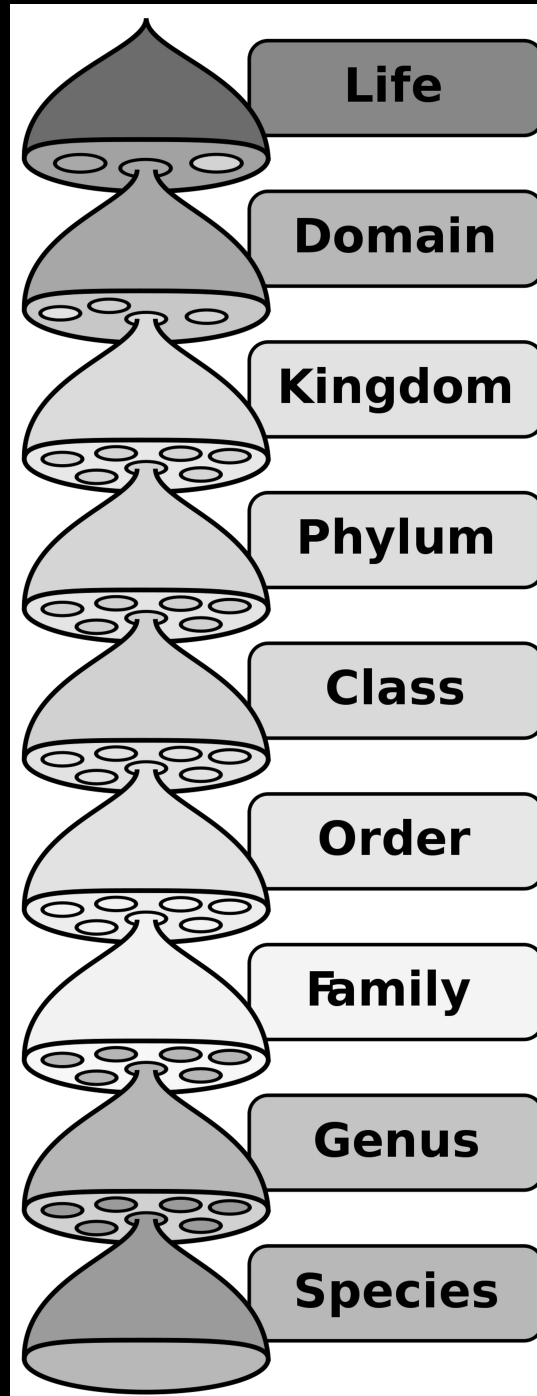


How can people who have quite
diverging conceptions about the relations...

...between humans,
living beings, and "things"...



...nevertheless agree in identifying similar entities - what we, in the West, call species?



Moreover: if human cultures surprisingly agree
to discriminate surrounding beings...

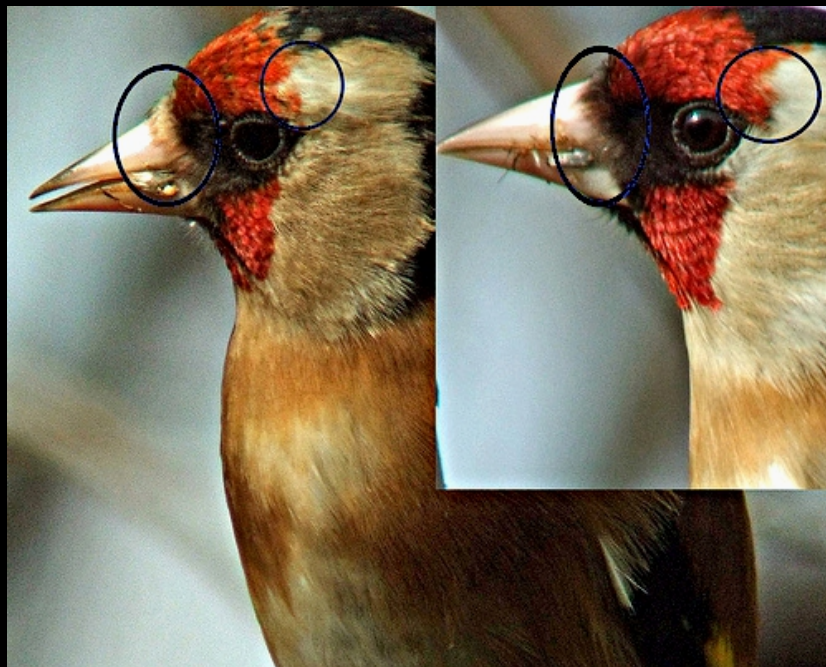
...into analogue unities, the ways they do it
are nevertheless largely distinct!

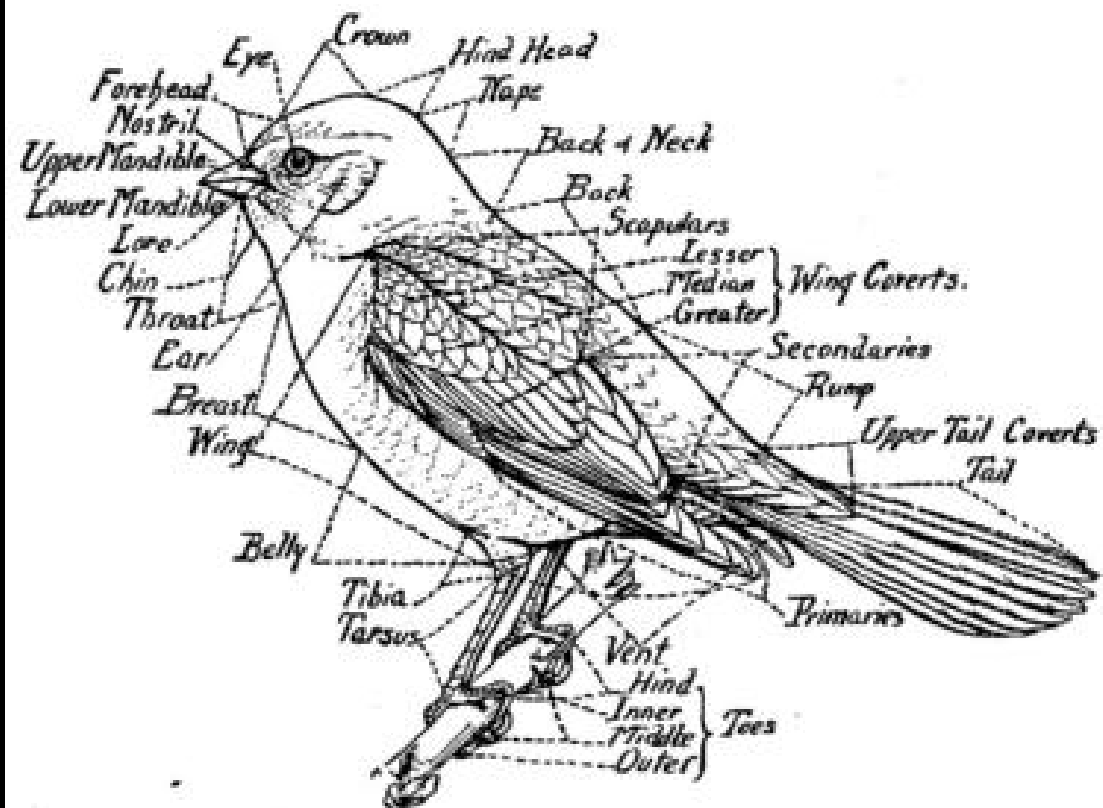


For Western scientists, identifying this Goldfinch
basically implies... to catch a glimpse of it...



...focusing on it with binoculars,
comparing tiny details...





...consulting books or colleagues.

And for the most difficult cases:
catch and measure it!



Non-literate people will identify a bird
by linking a specific sound...

...to a certain moment of the day,
and to a silhouette located in an appropriated place.



And this "situated silhouette" with
a proper way to eat, to interact, to move... to be!







So in the end,
particular birds are equally identified...

...but are they the "same"?



And even if some Western naturalistic skills
seem issued from the same kind of apprenticeship...

...learning mainly by seeing or mainly by hearing
may give access to quite distinct worlds!

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Anyway in non-literate native cultures,
songs, calls, chirps, shouts...

...all the voices of the place's inhabitants
are known since childhood!

Often the names given to birds capture
a specific aspect of those peculiar voices...

For example:

"Tsiterwitch... tsiterwitch"

one of Goldfinch's names in Walloon...

...the formerly vernacular
oral language of my village (East Belgium)



And those ones – typically resonating my place,
which are named: "*Bèyoles*"...

...how did you name them, you?

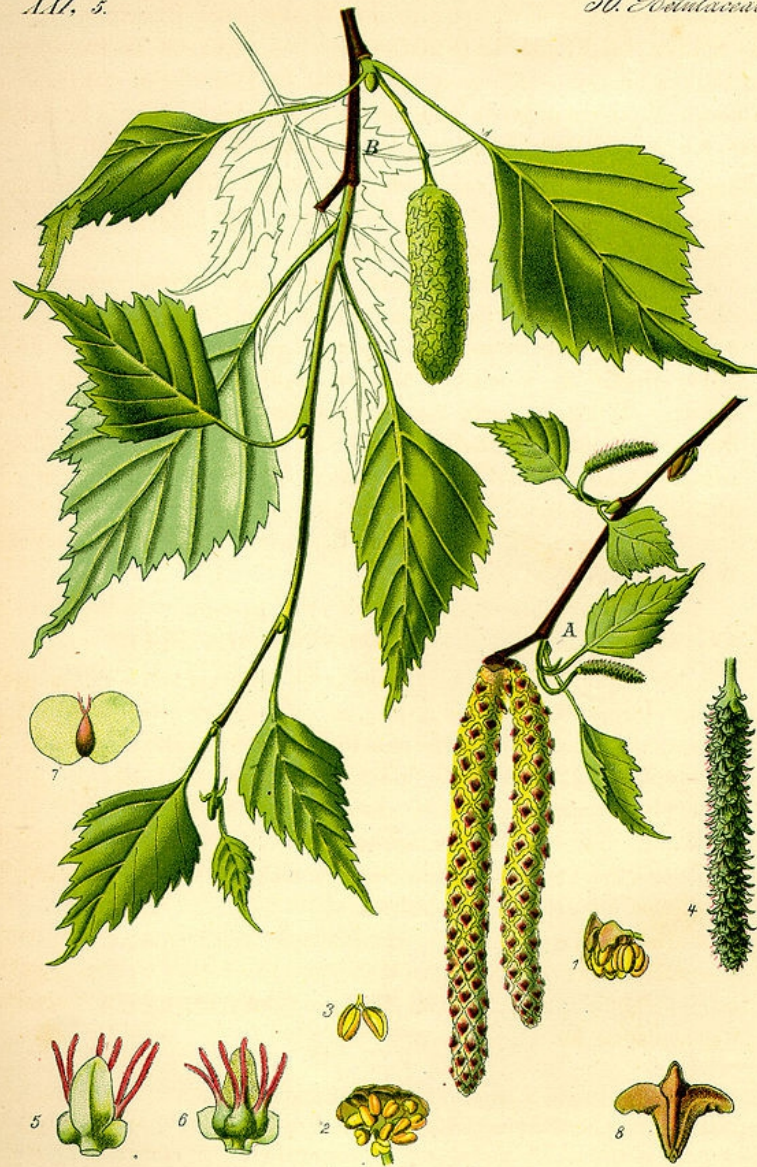
Trees...



Or... *Birch*?

Birken - Bouleau - Berk – Abedul
Brzoza - Bedolls – Bétula - Björk

Or even the scientific: *Betula*?



104. *Betula verrucosa* Ehrhart. Weiße Birke.

And also... what do you know
about what could be specifically done with it?

In my place,
where "beyôles" are at home,
they were commonly used for...







They are also known for giving asylum
and protection to other renowned beings...





Today a Swedish company has countless ways
to get worldwide profit from the birch's fine texture...

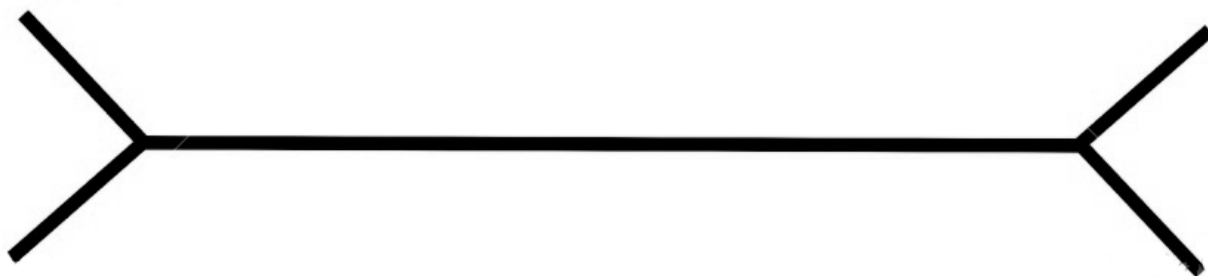


So: knowledges do also inhabit the relations and usages that people stitch with surrounding beings...



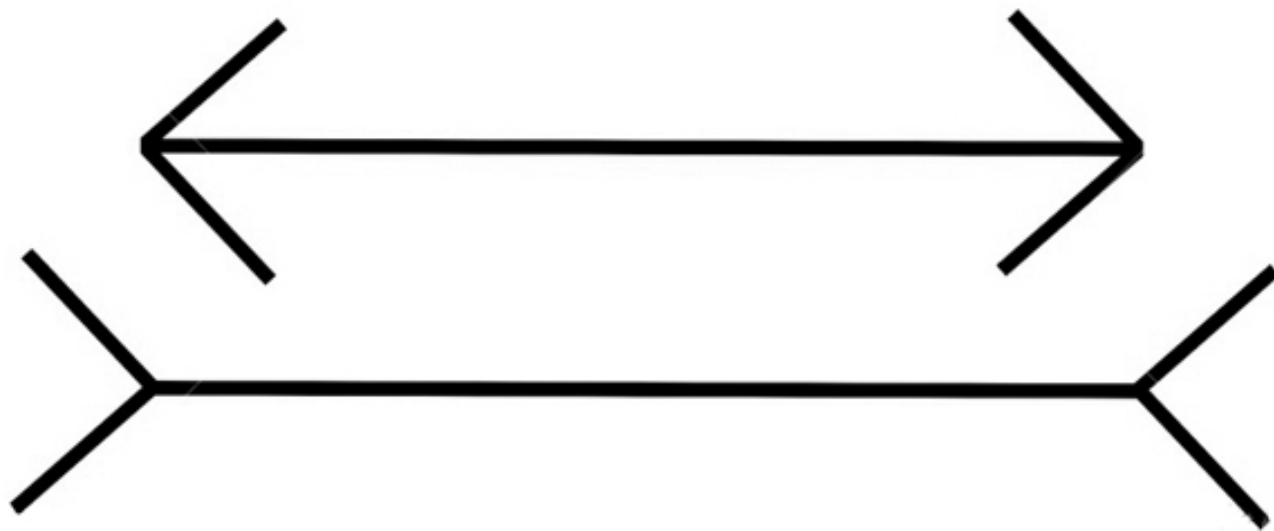
And all this creates differences so important
in perceptions between human cultures...

...that even Western psychologists
have learned to notice them!



A classic: if you have seen the two arrows as unequal,
there is a good chance that you are a Western one...

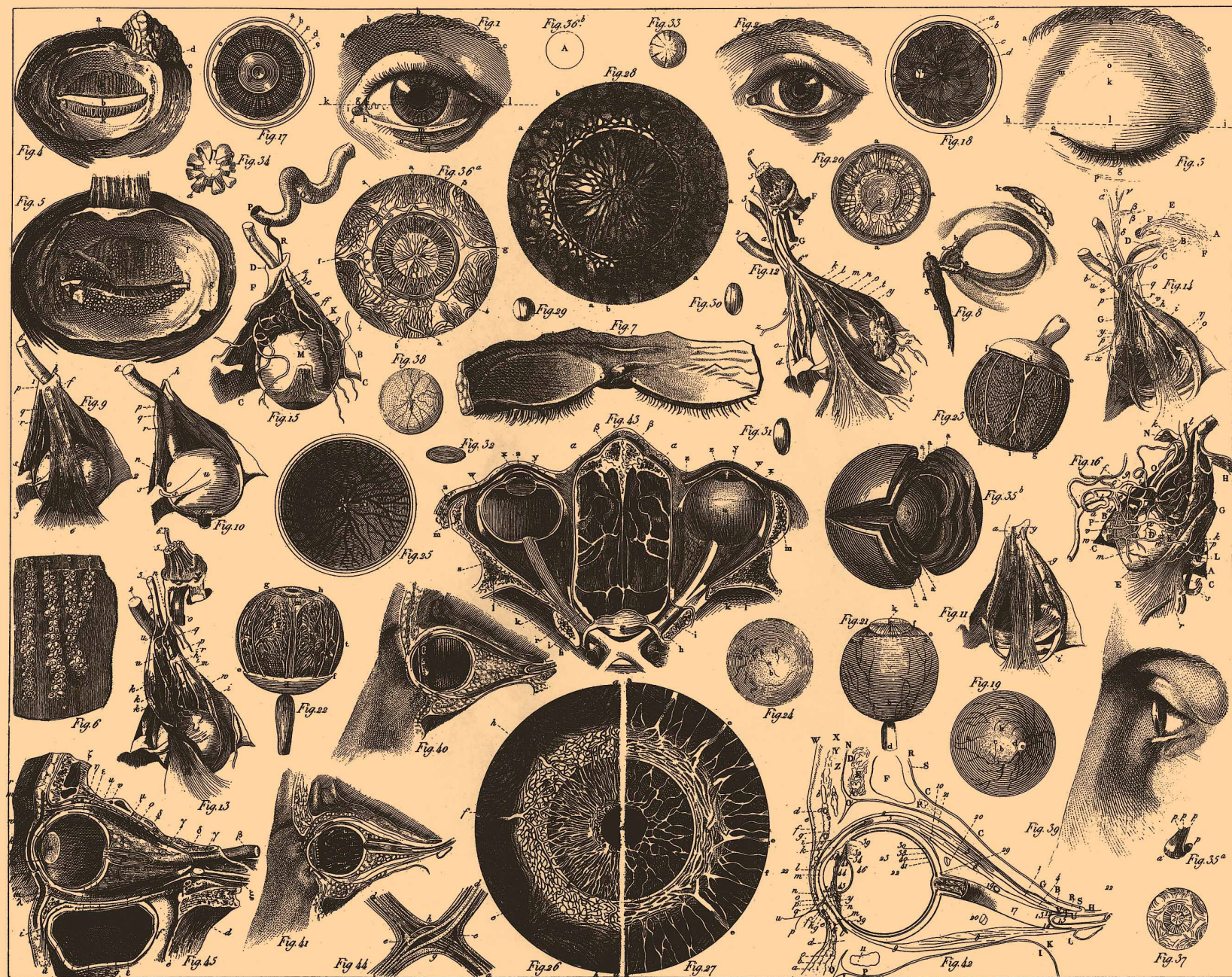
...but if you have seen them as equal, there is a good chance that you belong to a native culture!

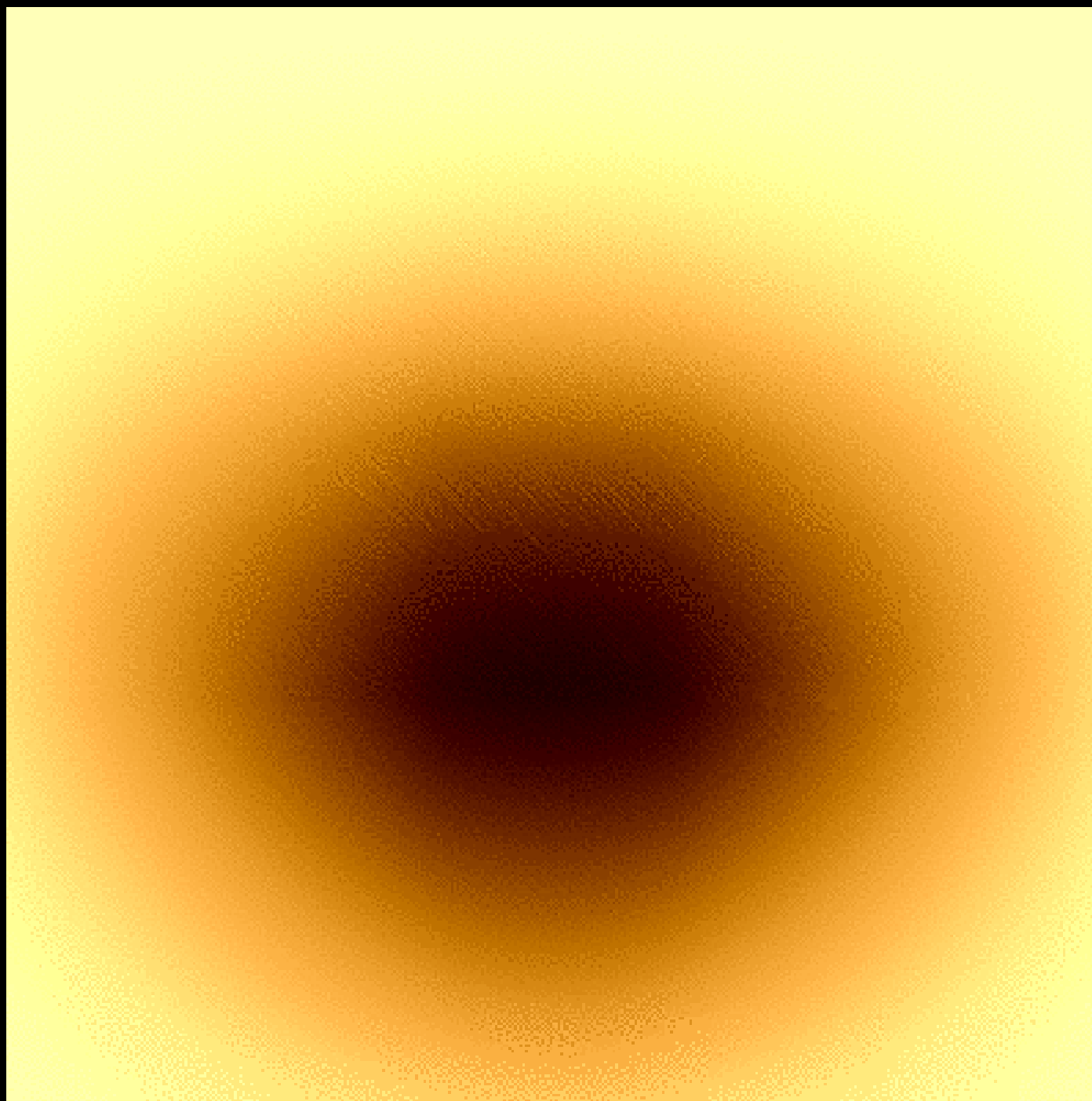


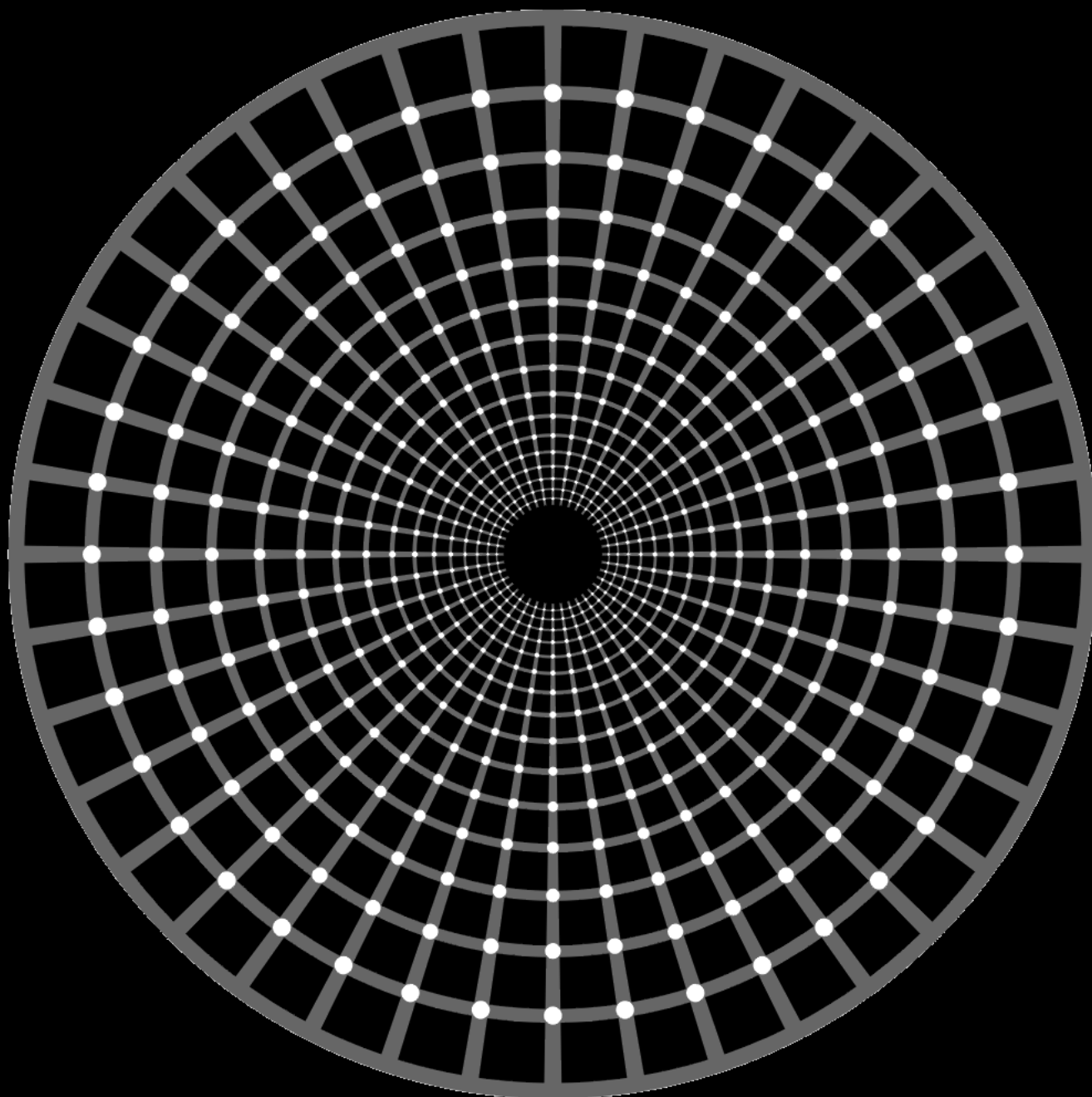
*"If even a process as apparently basic
as visual perception can show substantial variation..."*

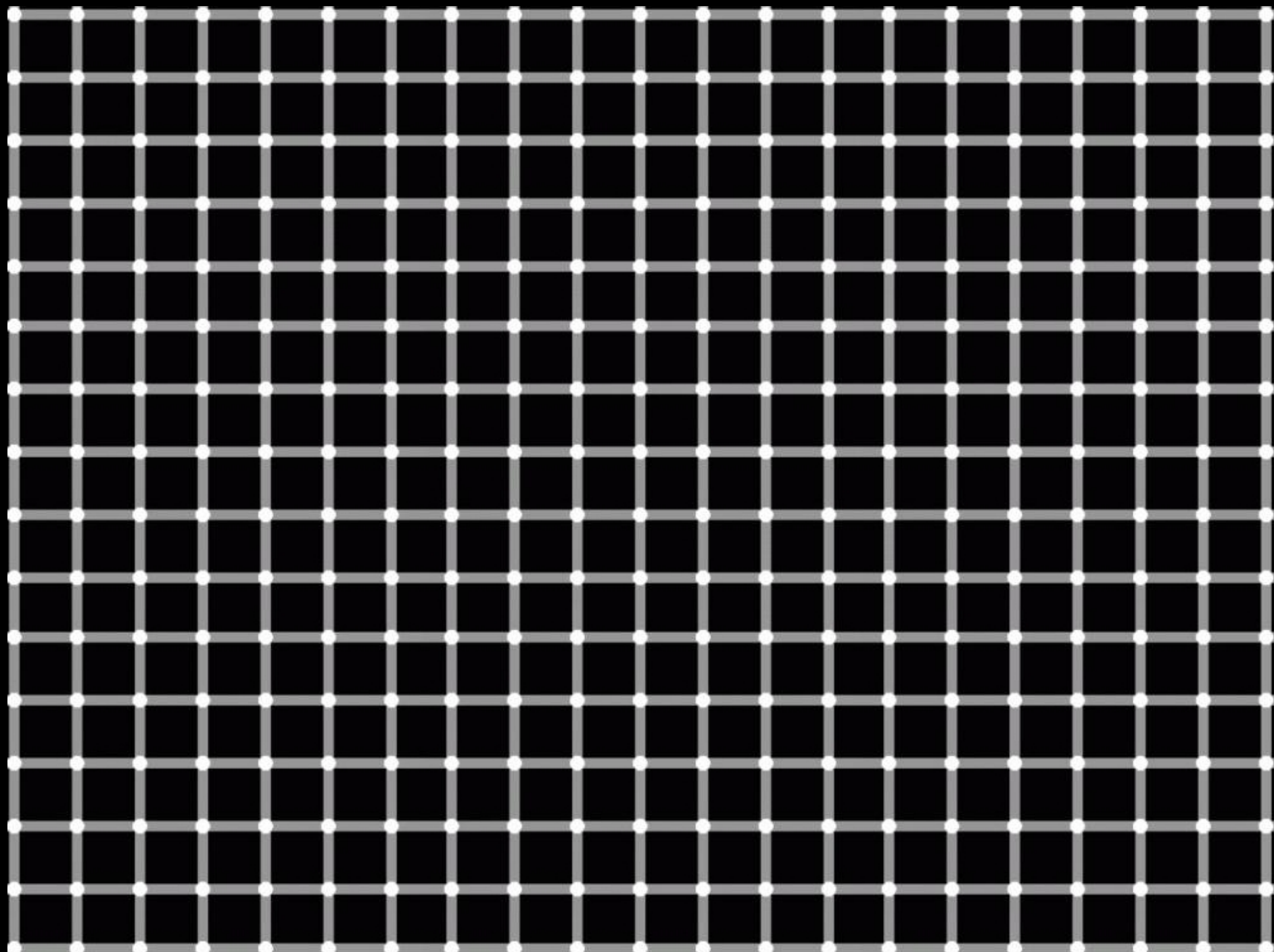
*...across populations (...)
what kind of psychological processes can we be sure
will not vary?*

"The Weirdest People in the World",
J. Henrich, S. J. Heine and A. Norenzayan, 2009















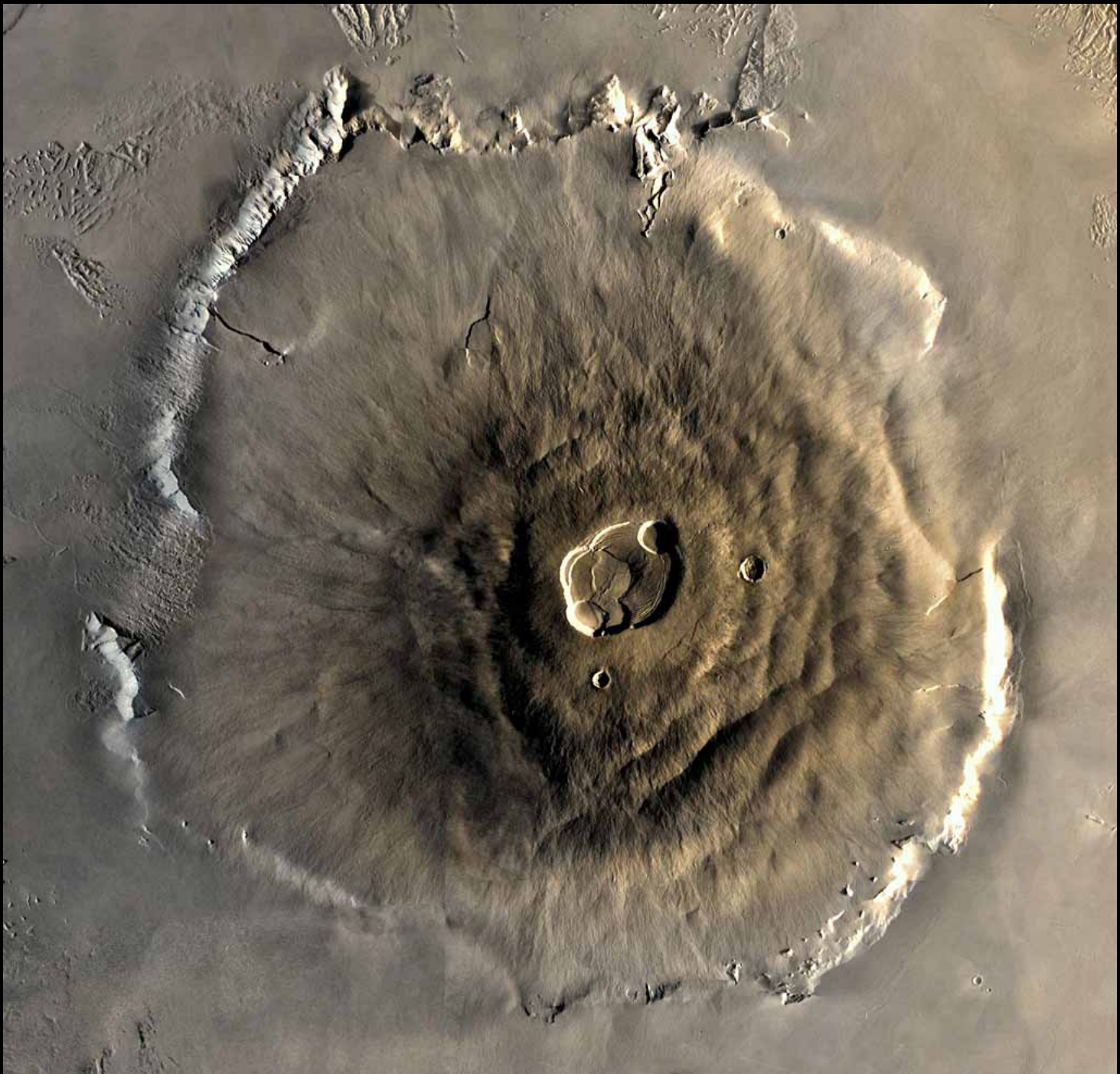




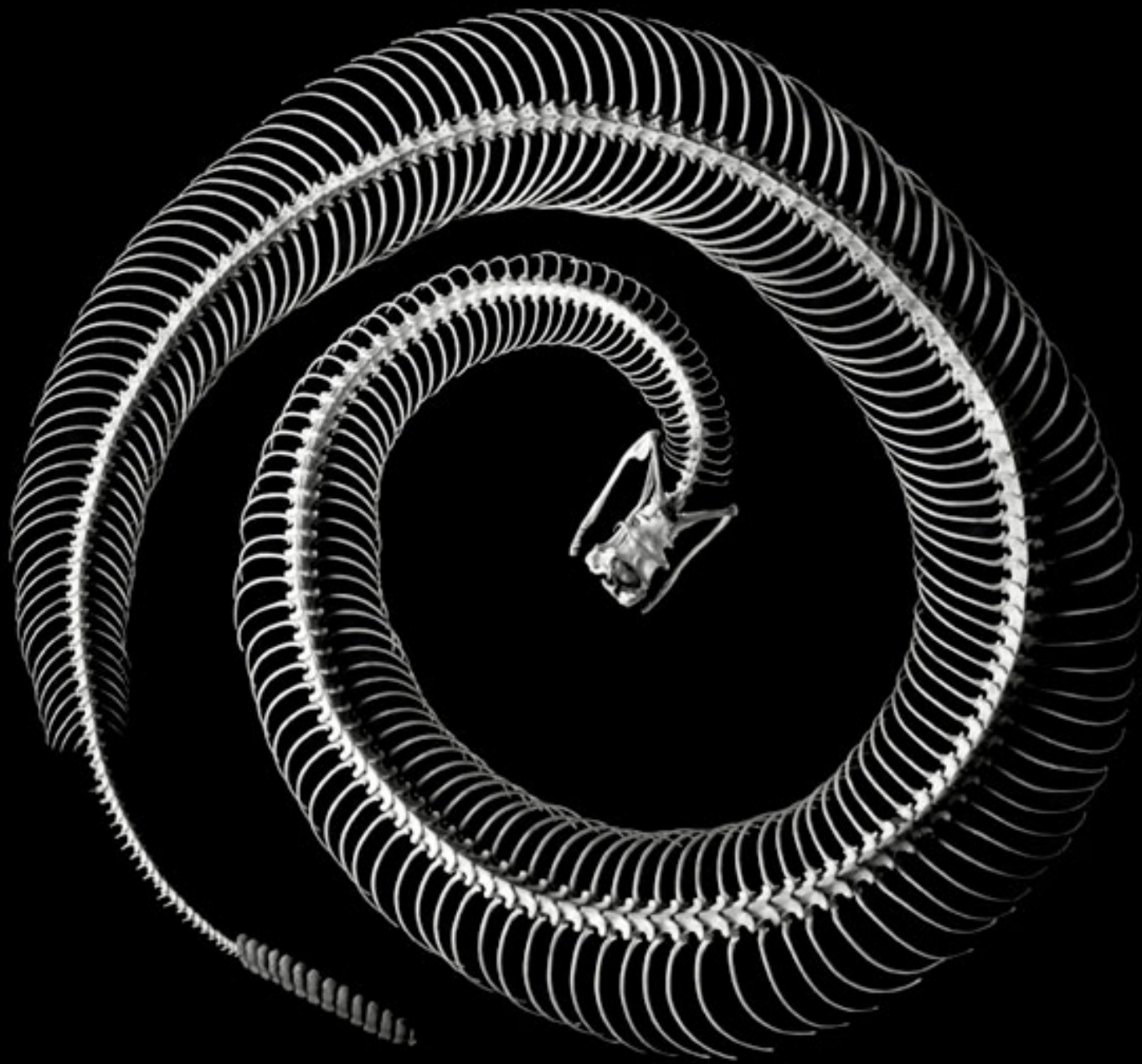




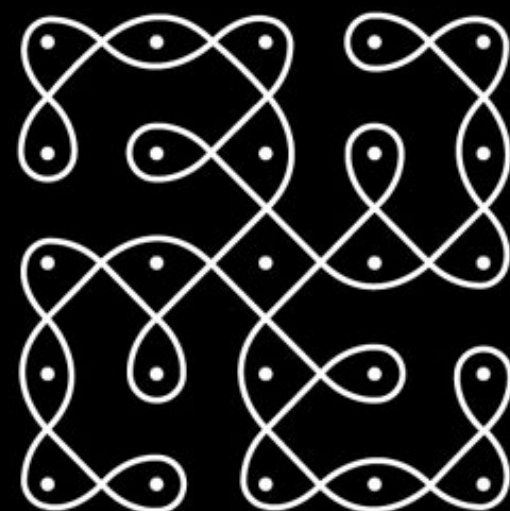
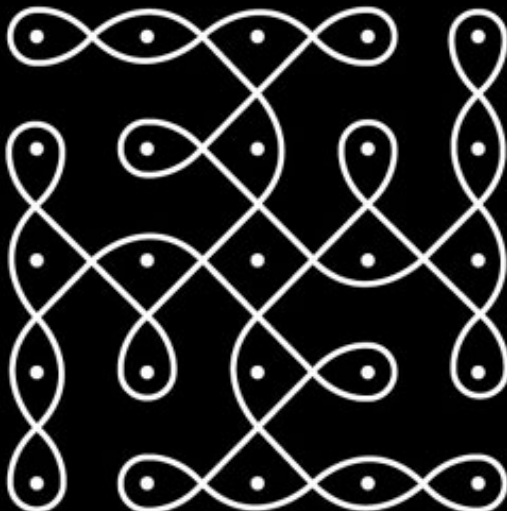
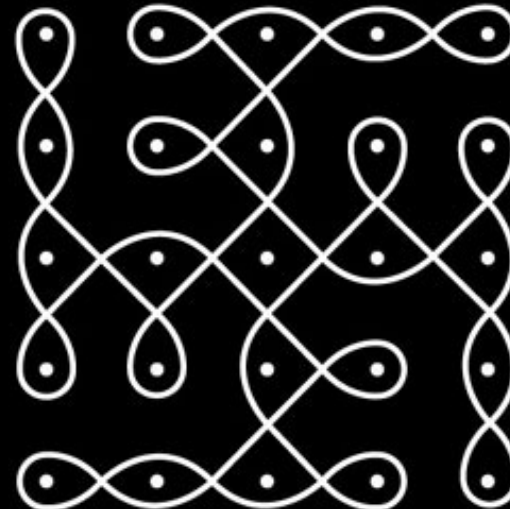
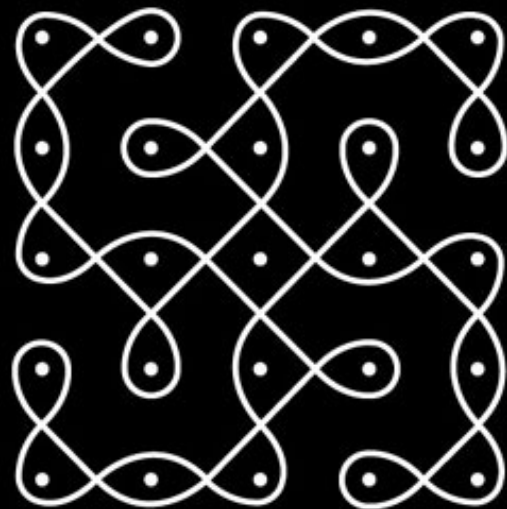


















Eventually: how can... shells be defined
as belonging to the same group of animals...

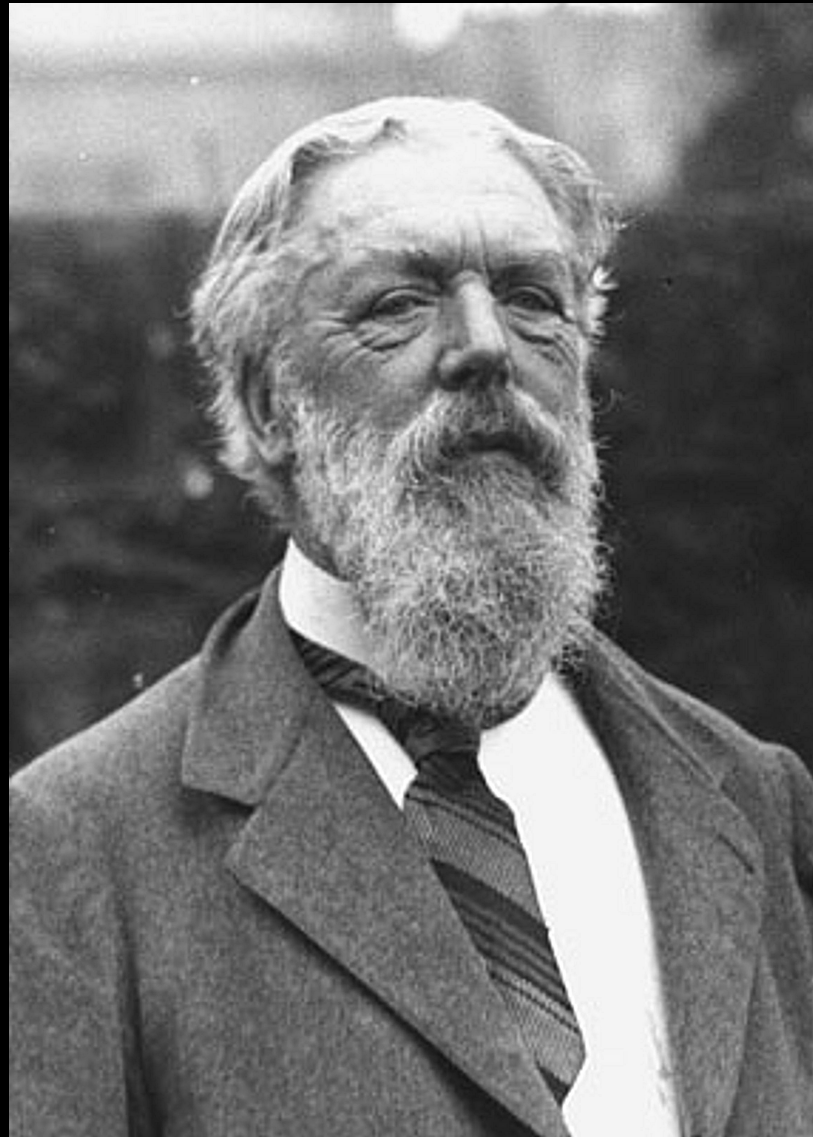
...if for some populations, they are
mostly known as delicious...



...and for others, the most beautiful ones
are used to "buy the jaw" of a future "fiancé"?



May it be that a clue can be located
in D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson's work?
(1860 -1948)



ON GROWTH AND FORM

The Complete Revised Edition

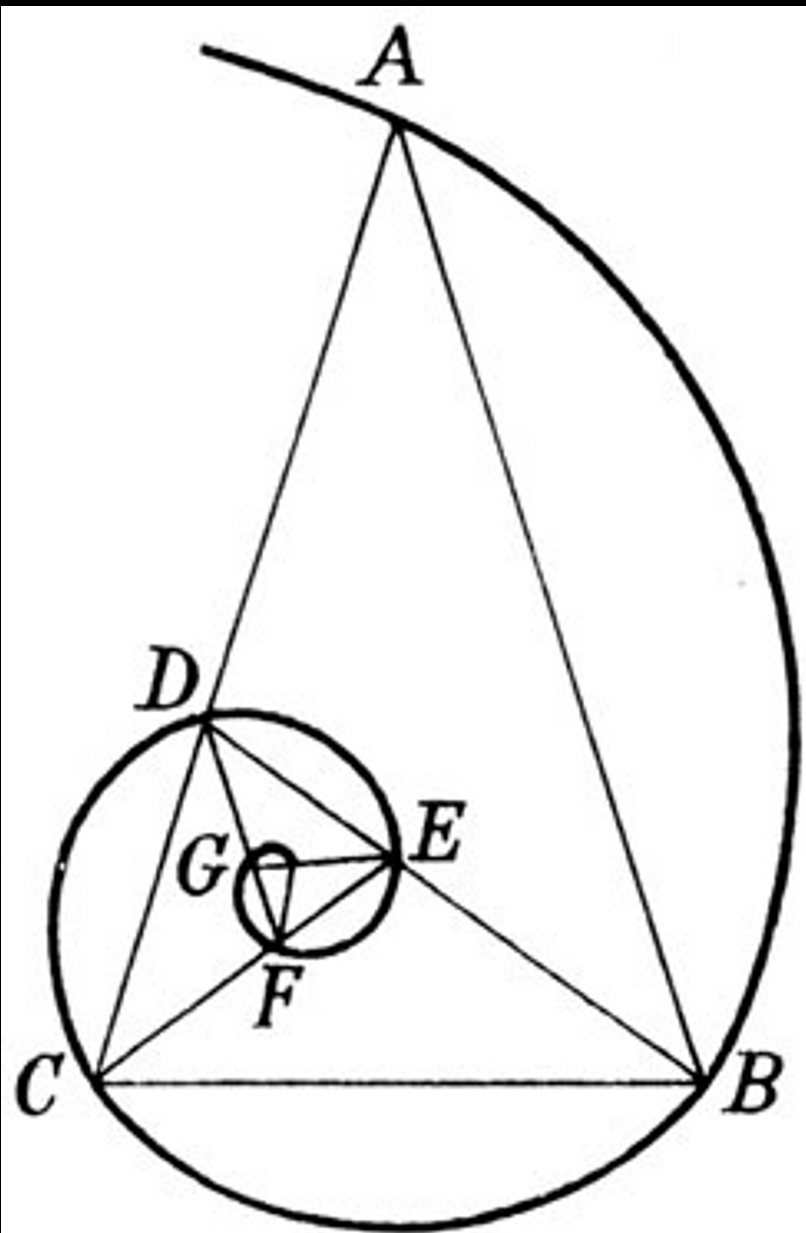


D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson

Thompson tried to demonstrate
that the many differences of forms in Nature...



...may be explained by applying simple physical forces upon a same primordial "ancestor".



In the following example: the second circle
is a transformation of the first...

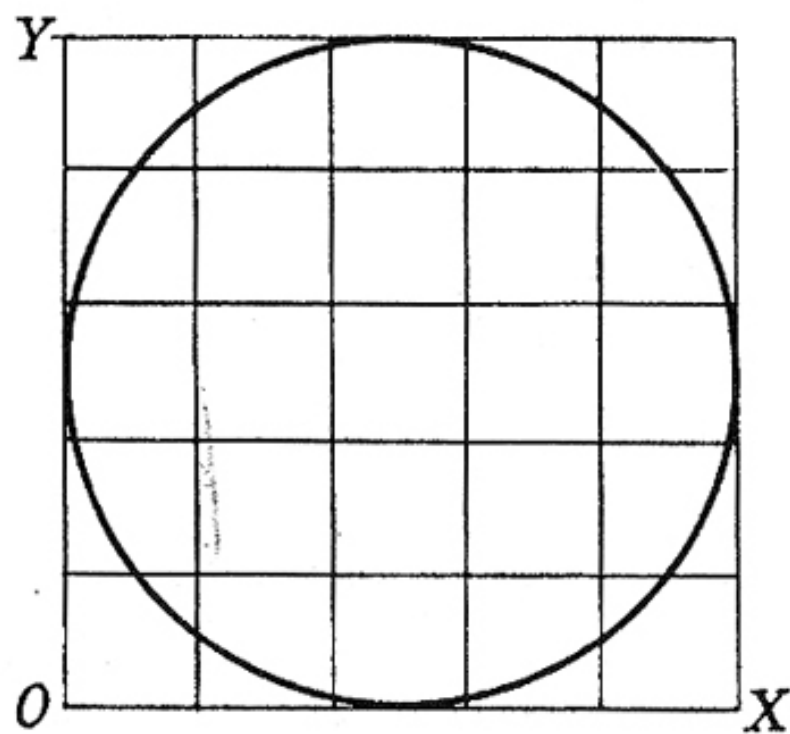


Fig. 120.

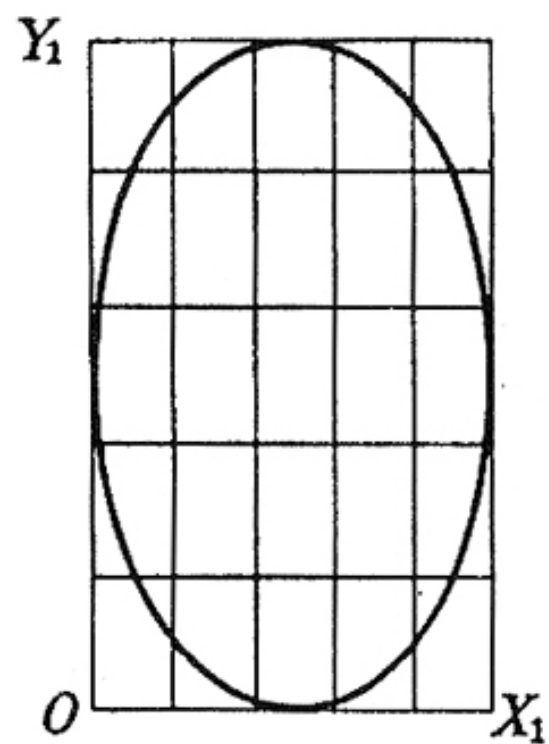


Fig. 121.

...when a compressive force
is applied along an horizontal axis.

This transformation of an oval is not a uniform one, but a logarithmic one:

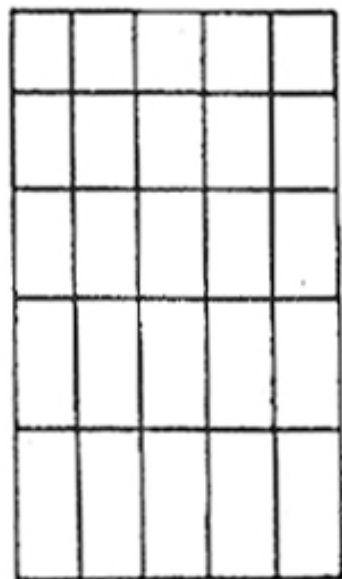


Fig. 123.

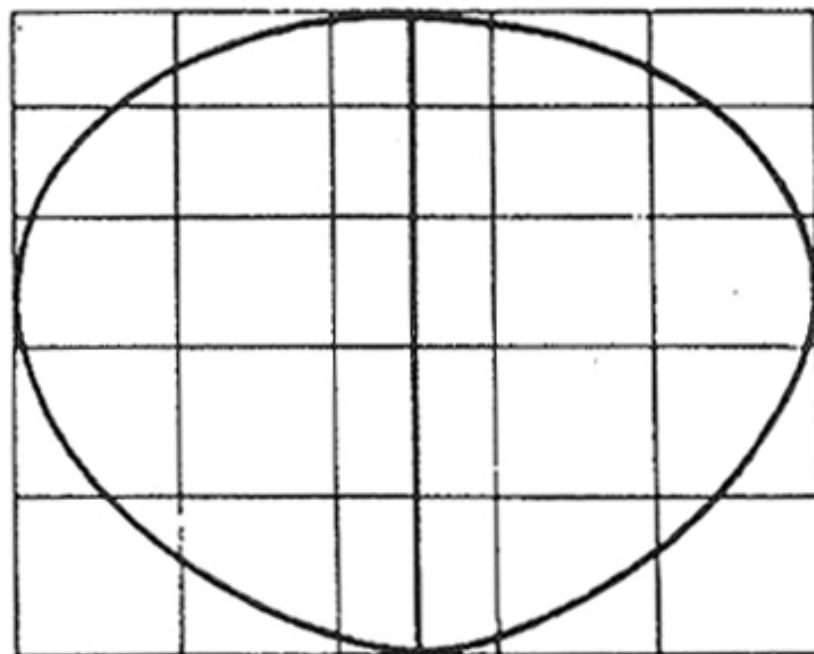


Fig. 124.

A radial one, this time...

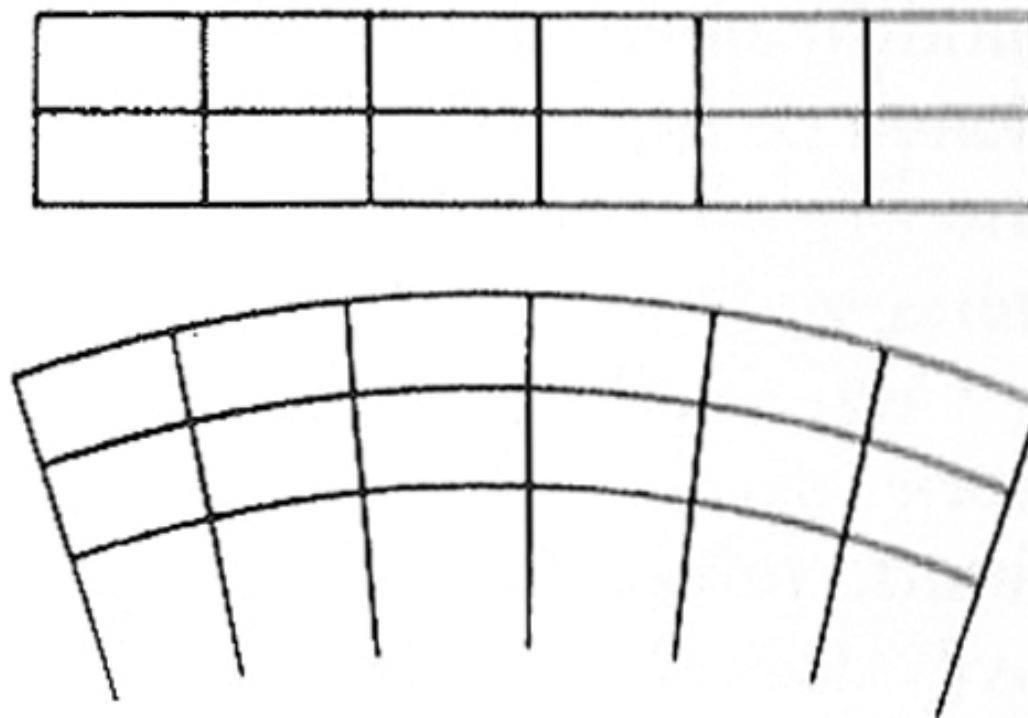


Fig. 126.

For living species,
here are some results...

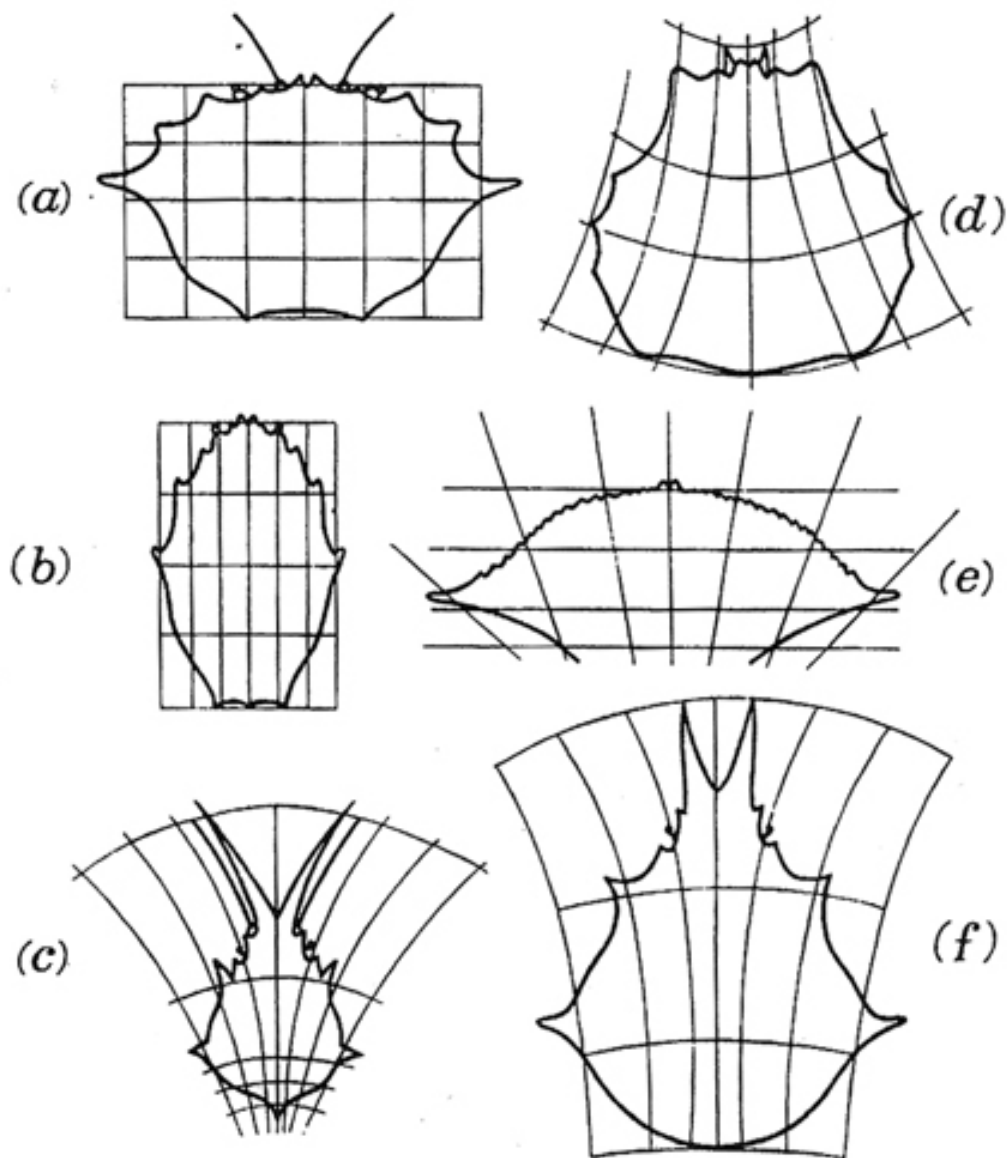


Fig. 142. Carapaces de divers crabes : (a) *Geryon*; (b) *Corystes*; (c) *Scyramathia*; (d) *Paralomis*; (e) *Lupa*; (f) *Chorinus*.

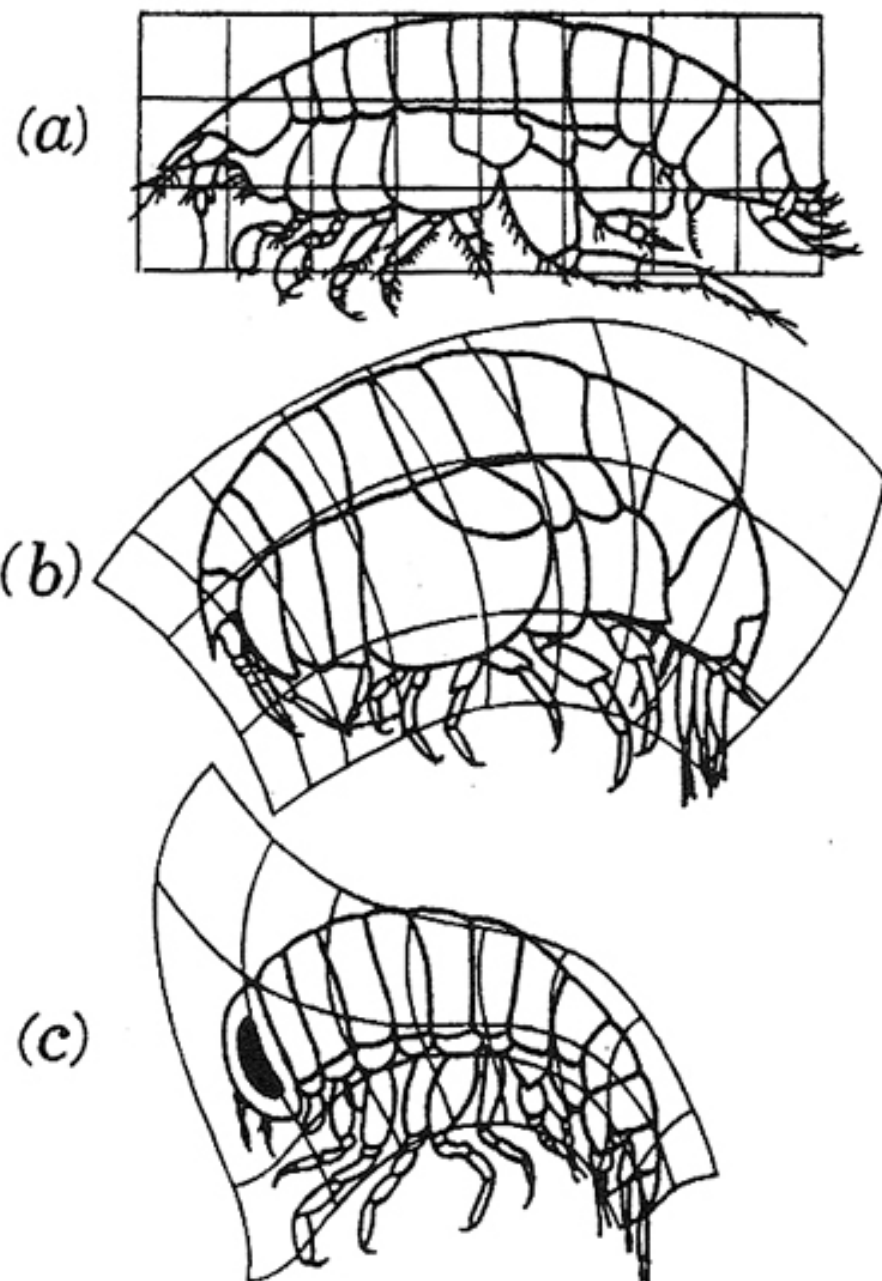


Fig. 143. (a) *Harpinia plumosa* Kr.;
(b) *Stegocephalus inflatus* Kr.;
(c) *Hyperia galba*.

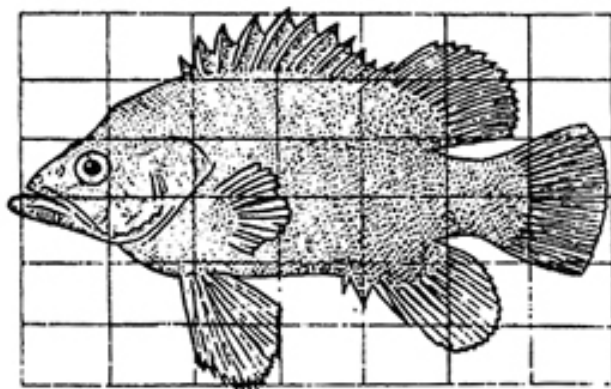


Fig. 150. *Polyprion*.

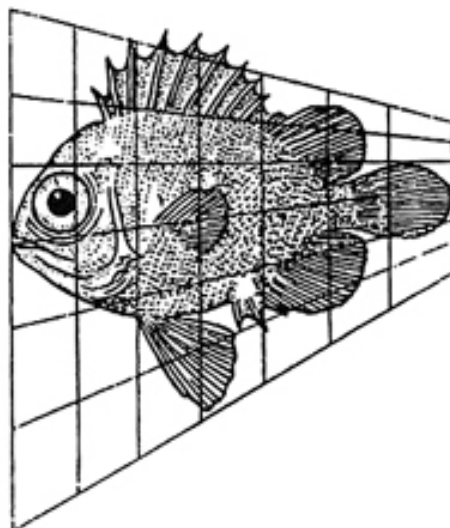


Fig. 151. *Pseudopriacanthus altus*.

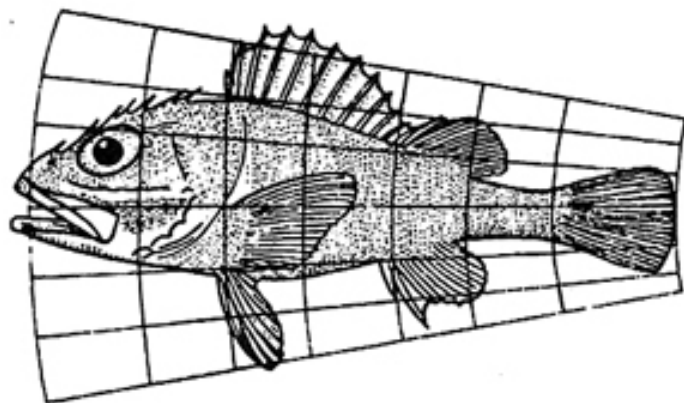


Fig. 152. *Scorpaena* sp.

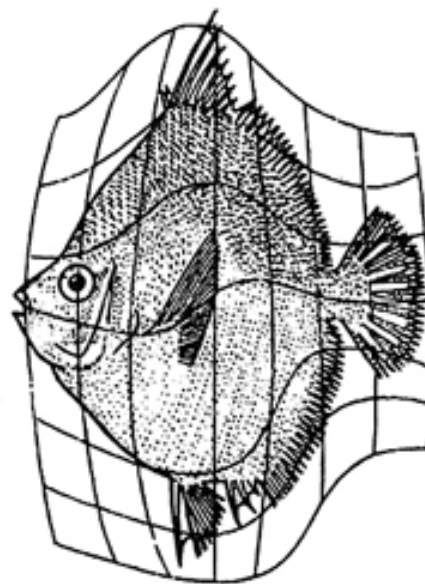
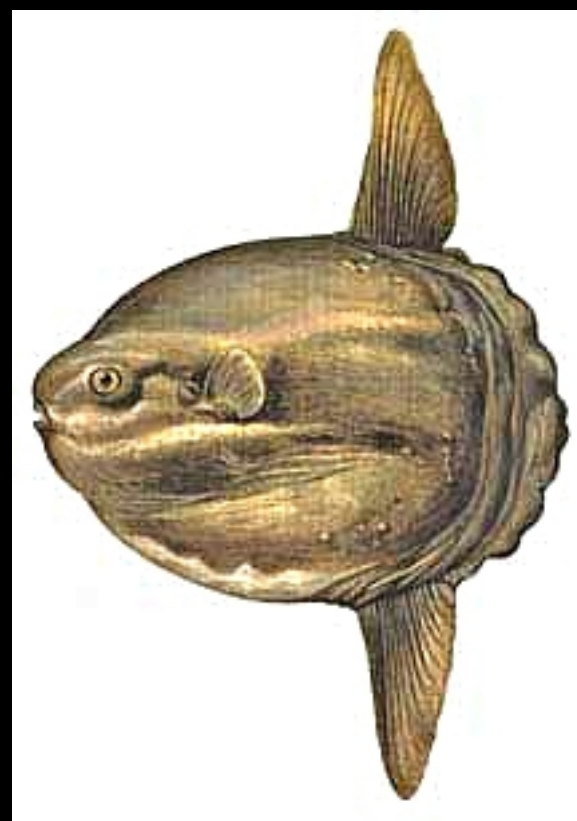
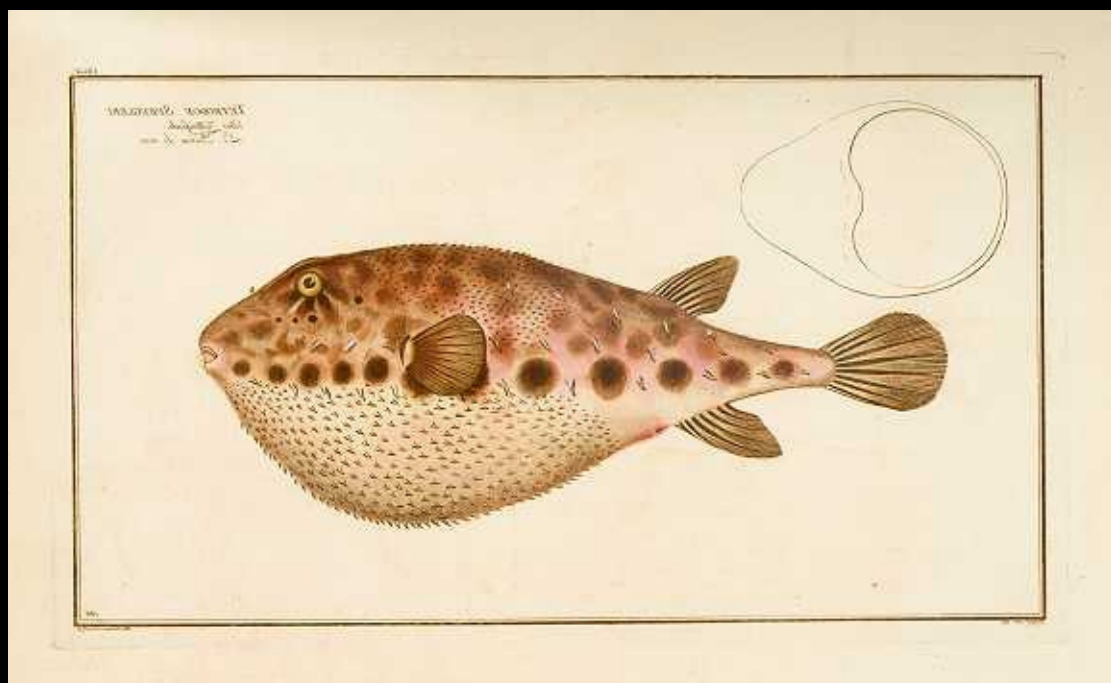


Fig. 153. *Antigonia capros*.



Those two are parents...

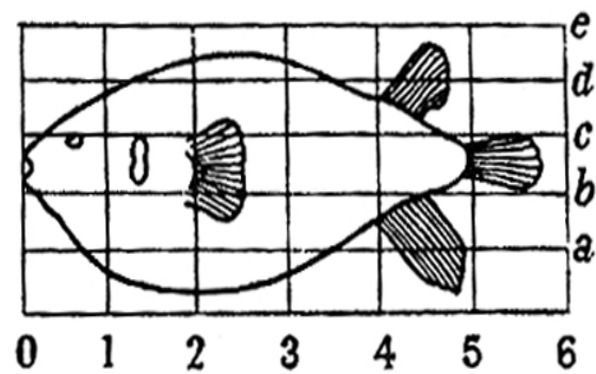


Fig. 154.

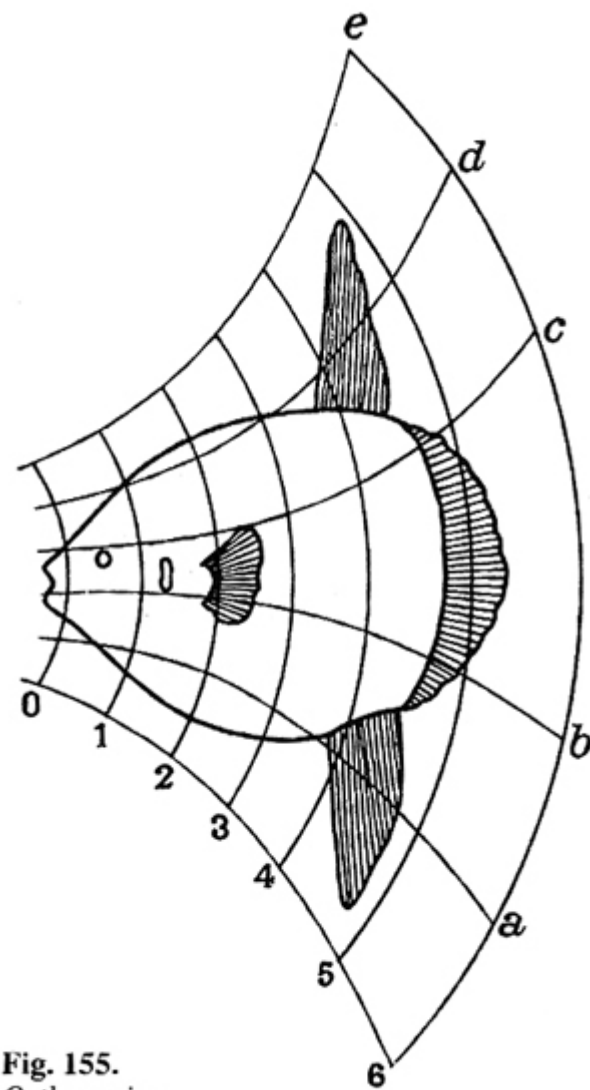
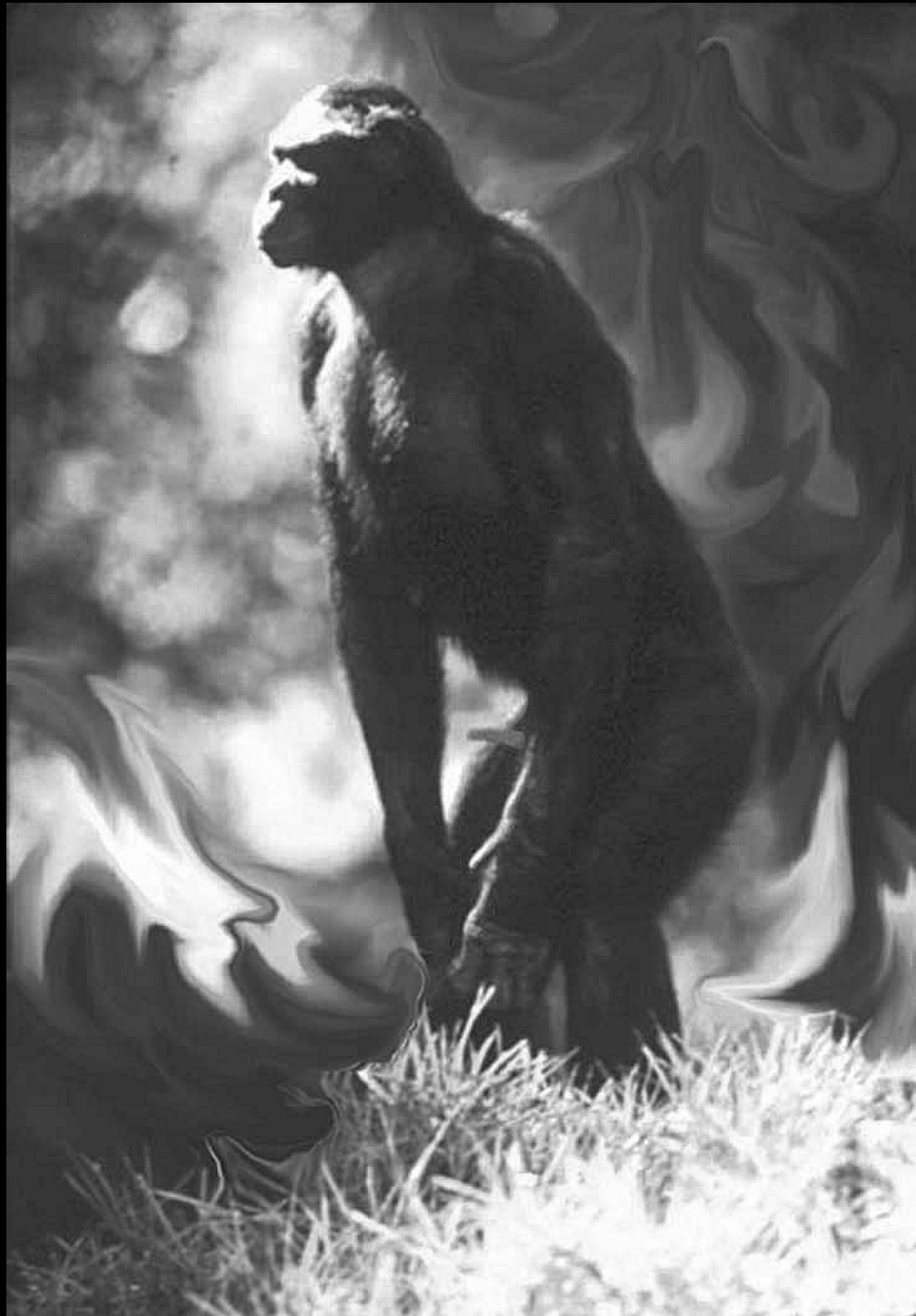


Fig. 155.
Orthogoriscus.

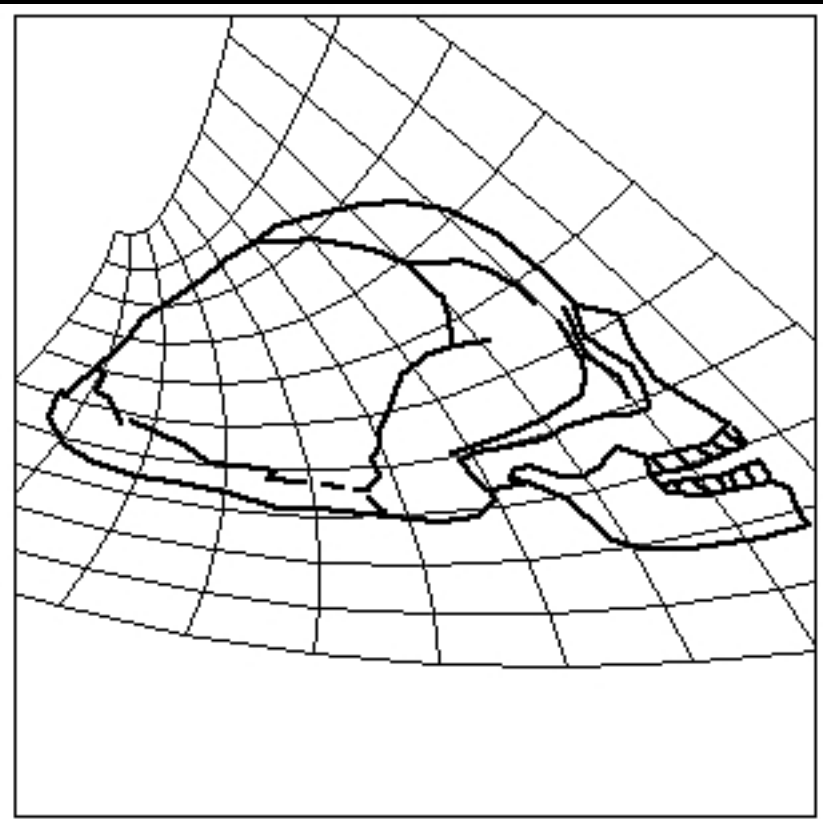
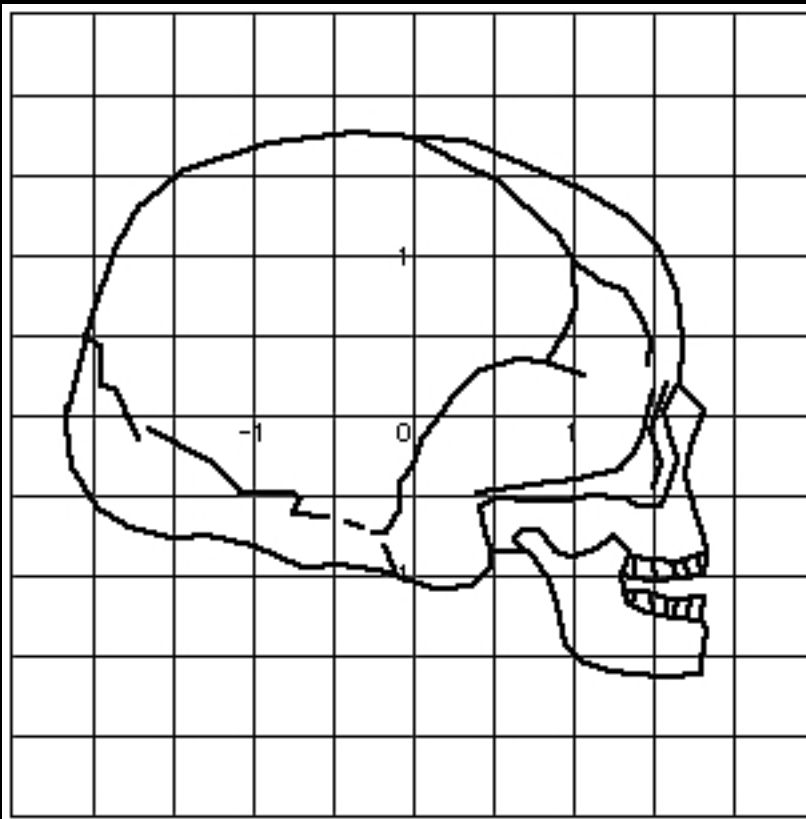
And so, to summarize
my proposal about the capacity...

...of all cultural groups to exhibit
a common ability of identification:



...simple physical mechanisms
of transformation are at work...

...the human brain is able to follow
those subtle twists and turns of forms.



Those "morphological courses" guide brain
and body perceptions through the diversity...

...and finally it would enable
human beings to match the kins.

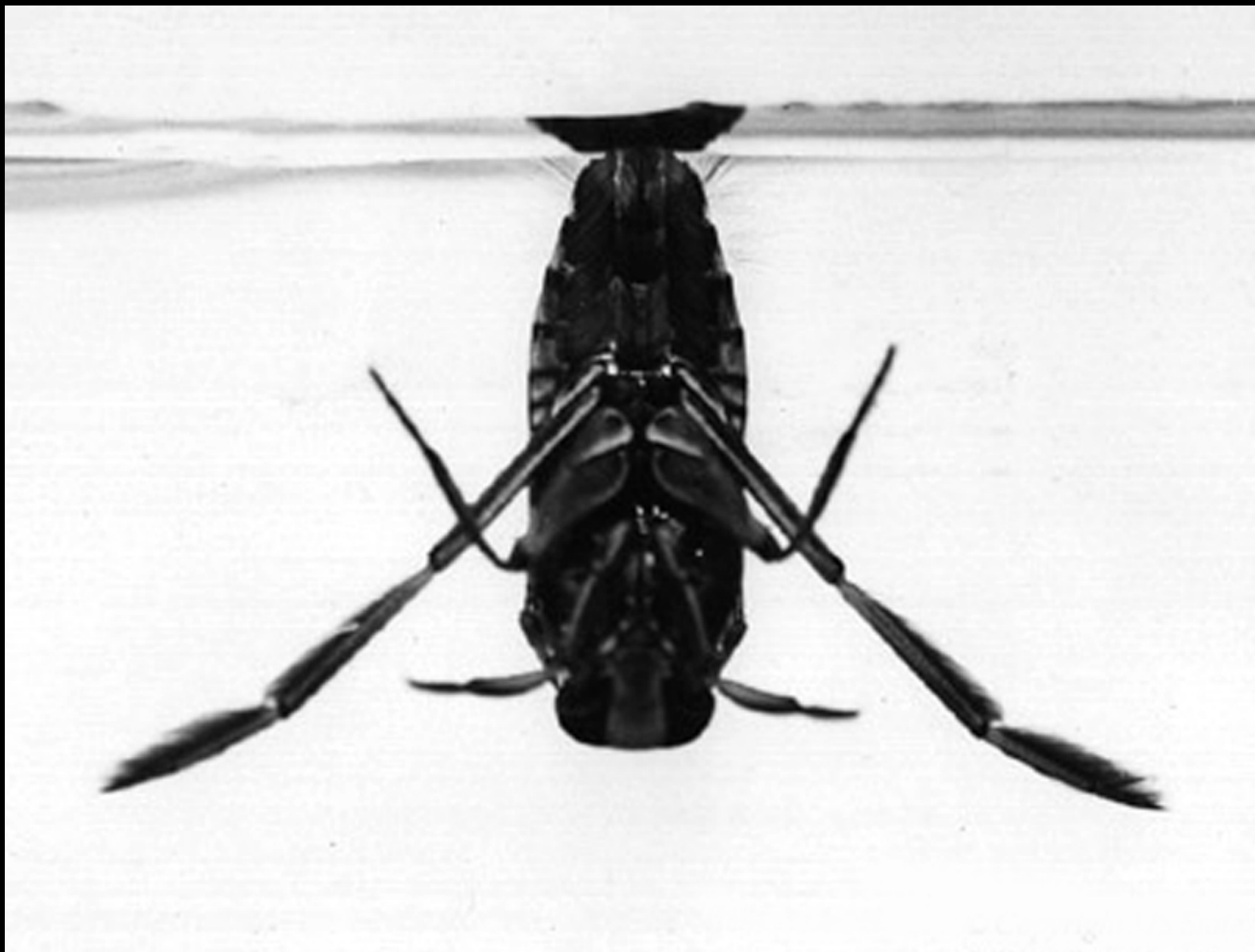


However, let us remember that even for
brains and bodies as incredibly gifted as ours,

...there remain true
"terrae incognitae" on Earth!



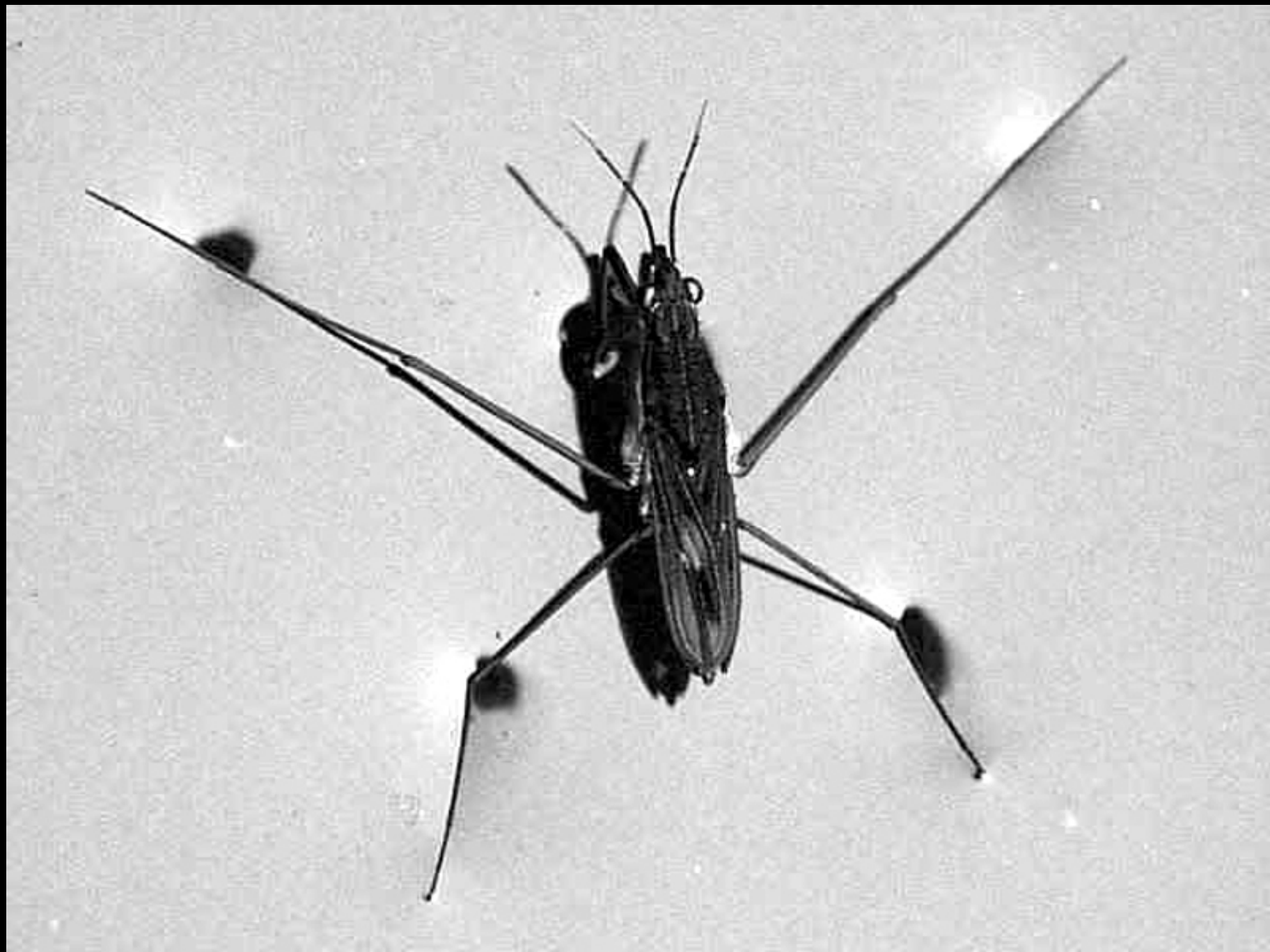
From our perspective scale,
the world is ruled by gravitational forces...



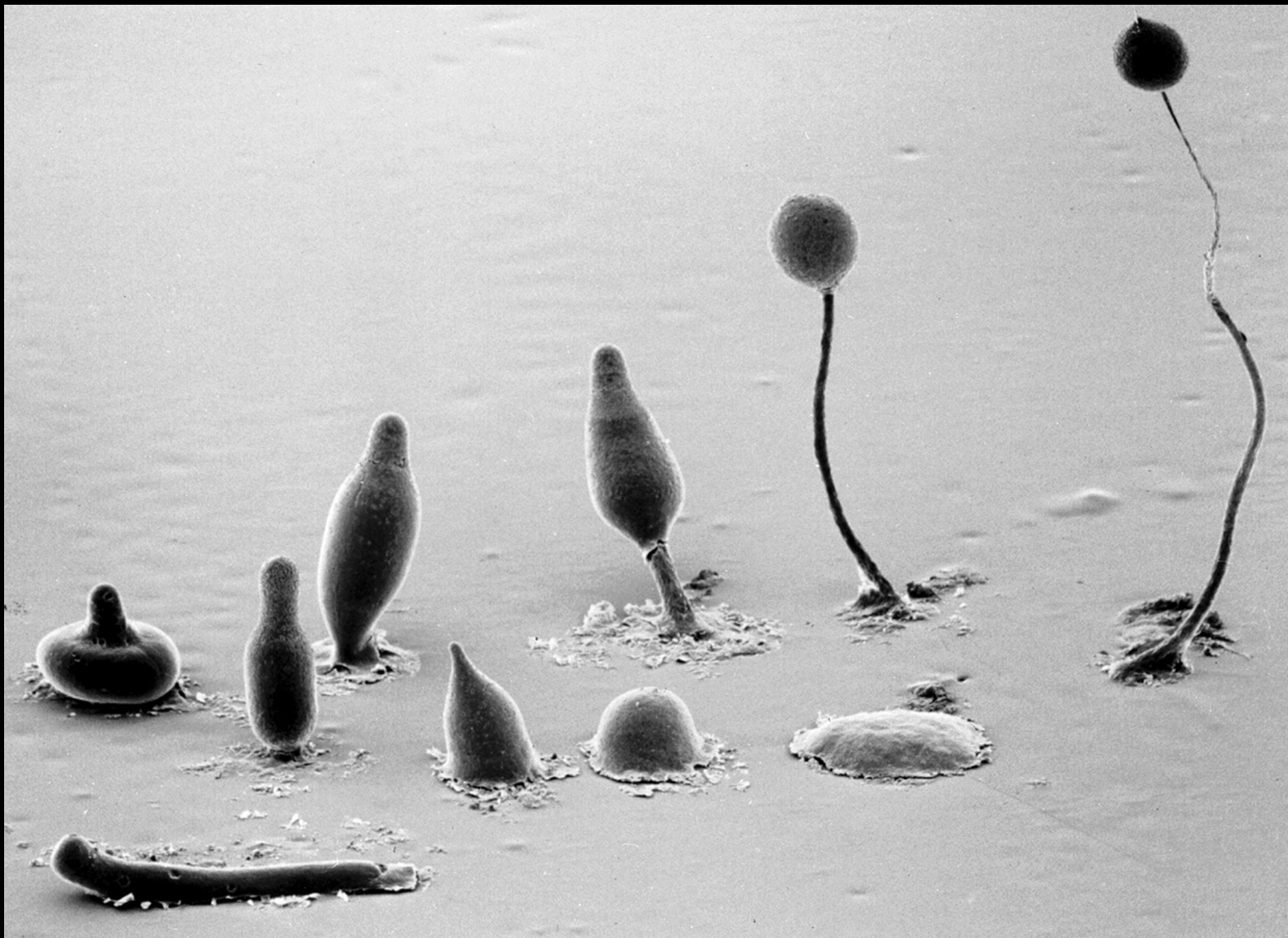
...but other
physico-biological worlds exist!

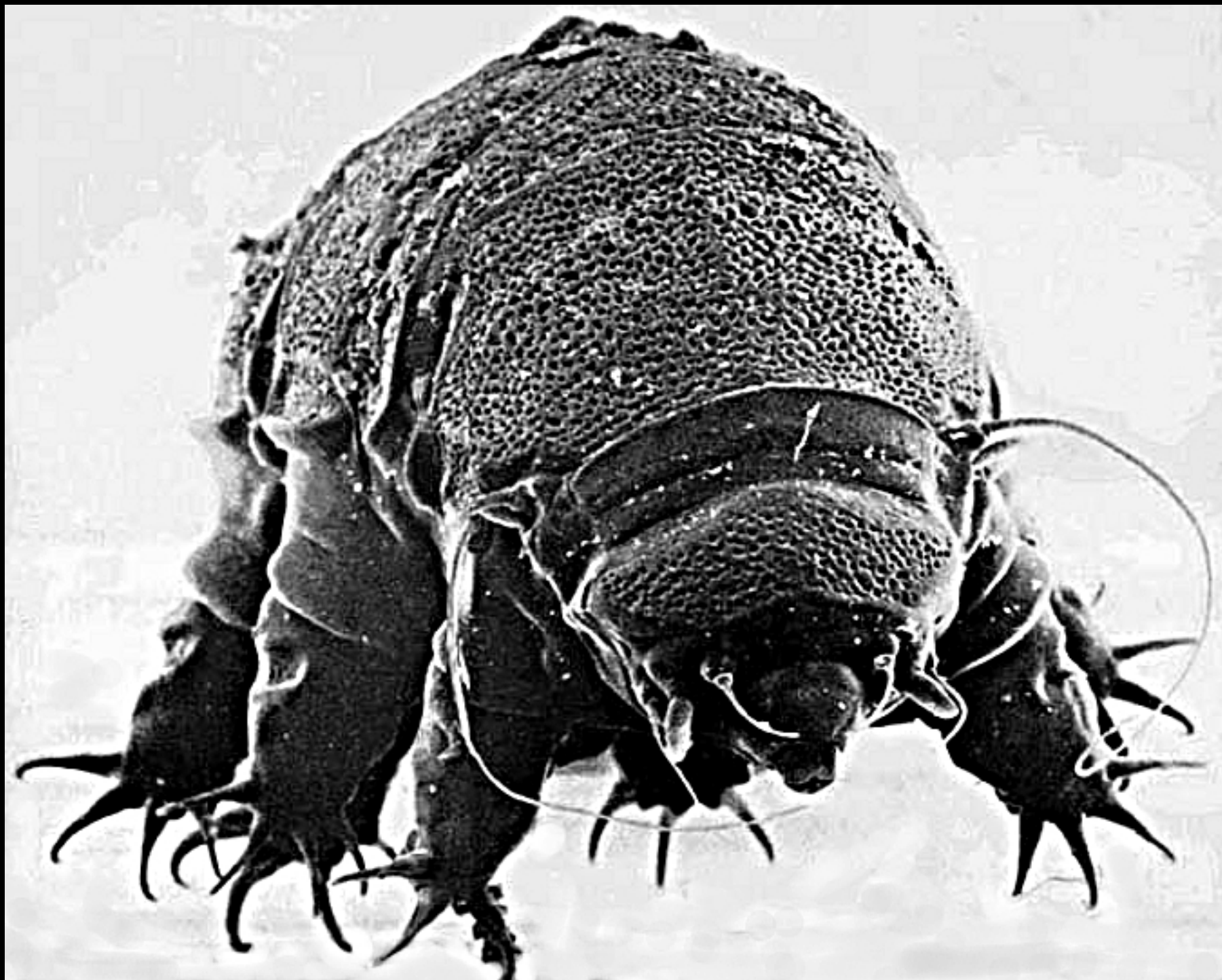


Insects worlds essentially
associate with superficial tension.



Not to speak about the different Earths
hidden in the underground...







And now...

...reaching the end,
maybe the most surprising:



...young mammals,
whatever their morphology or habitat,







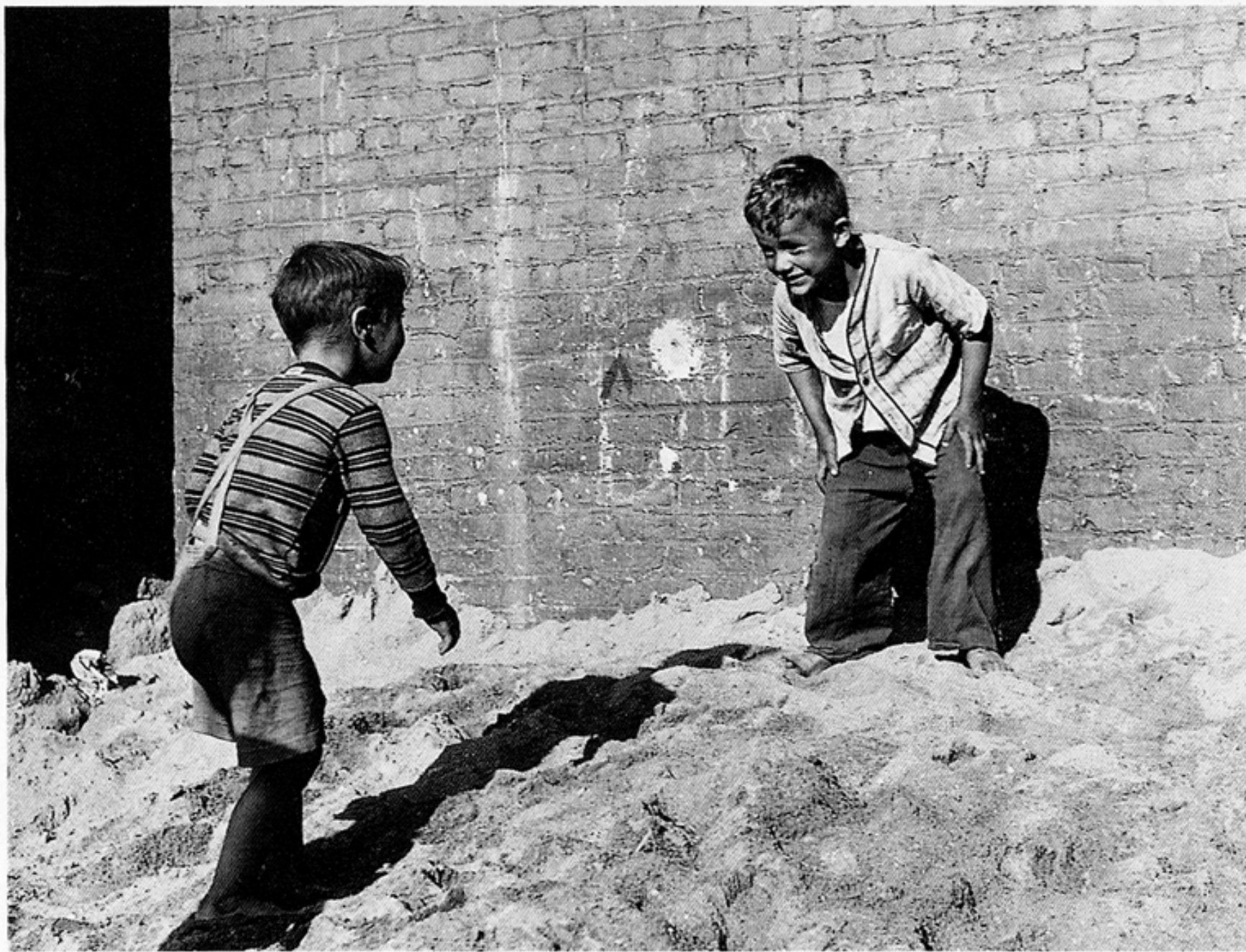
...have at least
something in common...







and that's... play!



Those were examples of
the "King of the Castle" game...

BIBLIOTHÈQUE SCIENTIFIQUE

D^r F. BUYTENDIJK

PROFESSEUR DE PHYSIOLOGIE A L'UNIVERSITÉ DE GRONINGUE

PSYCHOLOGIE DES ANIMAUX

PRÉFACE DE M. ED. CLAPARÈDE, PROFESSEUR DE
PSYCHOLOGIE EXPÉRIMENTALE A LA FACULTÉ DES
SCIENCES DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE, AVEC UNE
NOTE DU D^r L. LÉPINAY, PROFESSEUR A L'ÉCOLE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE DE PARIS

TRADUCTION FRANÇAISE DU D^r R. DREDO
MÉDECIN VÉTÉRINAIRE DU GOUVERNEMENT A MALINES

Avec 56 illustrations



PAYOT, PARIS



*"To the cat playing,
the paper or the rubber ball..."*

*...isn't a dead object
but something alive (...)*

*Thanks to its "Vital Phantasy"
the animal sees...*

*...all sorts of hidden
properties and potentialities...*

*...inviting it to
movements of investigation...*

...and perhaps leading to play"!

Frederik J. J. Buytendijk (1887 – 1974), 1928



"Vital phantasy"
as an inherent property of...

...every animated being.

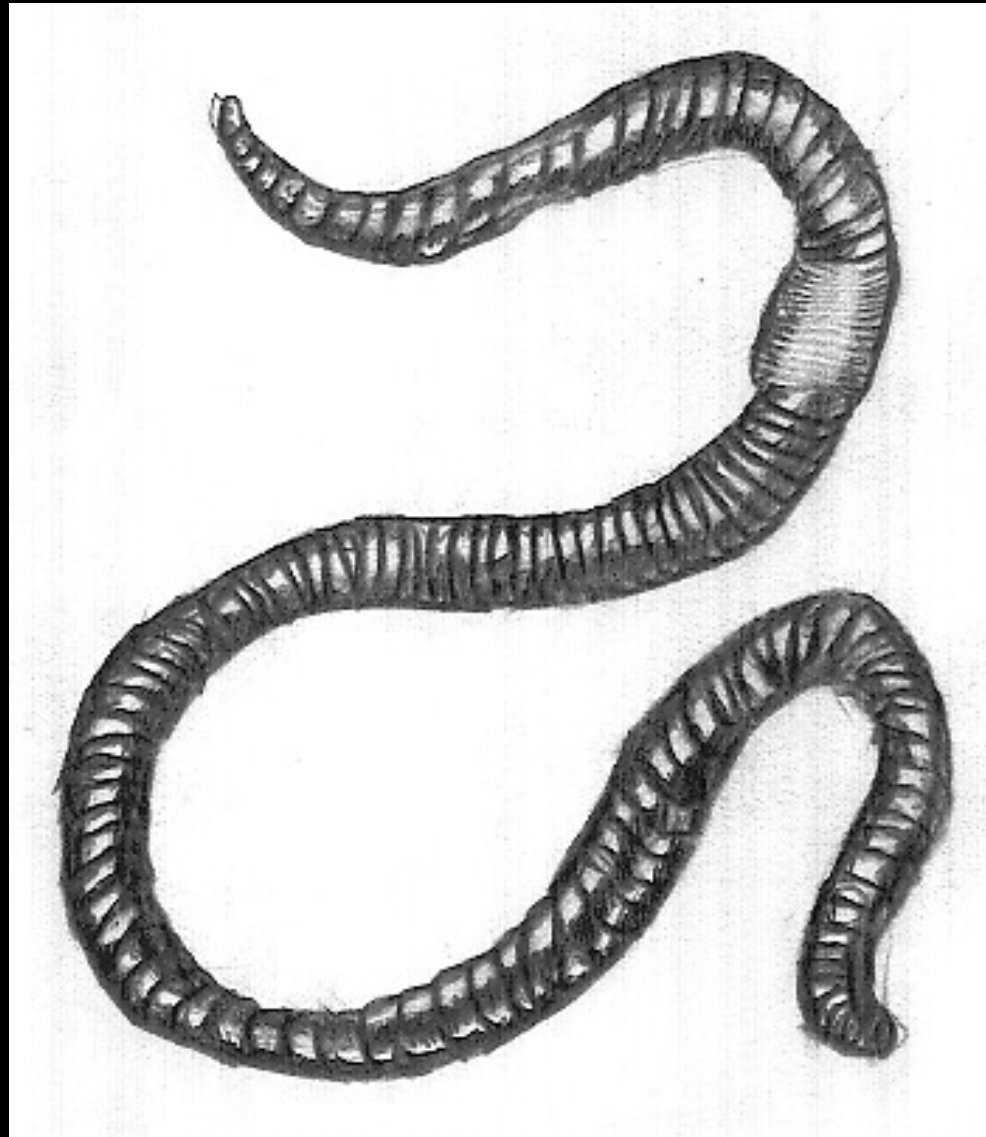
A possible ongoing relation...

...within a sensuous
More-Than-Human Earth?



Oh yes... this is the forest
which is gaining ground!

Thanks to gardener's best friend...



Thanks to

Luis Ansa, Jaqueline Bureau, Mai Abu El Dahab,
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Tobie Nathan, Maria Puig, Laïa Sadurni

Special thanks to
Isabelle Stengers

And also to all the persons
who are contributing to the Wikipedia project

Without forgetting

all the inhabitants of enchanted forest and heathland
that I have been fortunate
to visit again and again since childhood...

'Lógicas Desviadas' is compiled by Argentinean artist Irene Kopelman, following an exhaustive period of research at the library of the *Teylers Museum*, in Haarlem, The Netherlands.

In the 19th century the museum was a centre of scientific research and part of the display has been preserved in its original state. As one of the oldest museums in the Netherlands it contains in its archives important and reputed collections, publications and scientific artefacts.

In the second half of 2004 the artist immersed herself in the labyrinths of the Museum's library. Her research focused upon the material connected to the 18th and 19th century's scientific expeditions to 'exotic countries' that were documented in great detail by the travellers of the time.

Specific to her research are systems of comprehension and representations of nature that were used by travellers and explorers to record the data they collected, such as shells, eggs, fossils as well as geographic formations that were unique a particular area as well as the flora and fauna that might not survive the long and uncertain journey back to Europe.



Irene Kopelman

Lógicas Desviadas

Lógicas Desviadas

ILLUSTRATIONS CONCEPTUELLES PL 17



1. S. Pygilia - Linea. var. avec la Pygilia 2. S. Pygilia Linea. var. avec la Pygilia 3. S. Pygilia Linea. var. avec la Pygilia 4. Pygilia Linea. var. avec la Pygilia 5. Pygilia Linea. var. avec la Pygilia 6. Pygilia Linea. var. avec la Pygilia

Irene Kopelman

To be continued...



Warning!

The process of collecting images was a long one:
it's quite possible that in the course of this research, I mislay
some of the constraints attached to one or the other images.

If you have any claims to make, please contact me:

[d.demorcy\(at\)collectifs.net](mailto:d.demorcy@collectifs.net)

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