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978-0-521-76977-8 - Cognitive Archaeology and Human Evolution

Edited by Sophie A. De Beaune, Frederick L. Coolidge and Thomas Wynn

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## COGNITIVE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HUMAN EVOLUTION

This book presents new directions in the study of cognitive archaeology. Seeking to understand the conditions that led to the development of a variety of cognitive processes during evolution, it uses evidence from empirical studies and offers theoretical speculations about the evolution of modern thinking as well. The volume draws from the fields of archaeology and neuropsychology, which traditionally have shared little in the way of theories and methods, even though both disciplines provide crucial pieces to the puzzle of the emergence and evolution of human cognition. The twelve essays, written by an international team of scholars, represent an eclectic array of interests, methods, and theories about evolutionary cognitive archaeology. Collectively, they consider whether the processes in the development of human cognition simply made use of anatomical and cerebral structures already in place at the beginning of hominization. They also consider the possibility of an active role of hominoids in their own development and query the impact of hominoid activity in the emergence of new cognitive abilities.

Sophie A. de Beaune is Professor of Prehistory at Jean Moulin University – Lyon 3 and Deputy Scientific Director at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). The author of eight books, most recently *L'Homme et L'outil: L'invention Technique durant la Préhistoire*, she is also director of a book series entitled “Le passé recomposé” at CNRS Editions.

Frederick L. Coolidge is Professor of Psychology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He has published extensively in behavioral genetics, neuropsychology, psychopathology assessment, and cognitive archaeology, with recent articles in *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, the *Journal of Human Evolution*, and *Journal of Archaeological Research*, among others.

Thomas Wynn is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He has published extensively on the evolution of human cognition, culminating in a target article in *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, published in 2002.

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# Cognitive Archaeology and Human Evolution

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## Contributors

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*Knapping: The Necessary Condition for a Uniquely Hominid Behaviour* (MacDonald Institute, 23–33).

**Eric Reuland** received his doctorate in Linguistics from the University of Groningen in 1979. He is currently Faculty Professor of Language and Cognition in the Faculty of Humanities of Utrecht University. His main area of research is the relation between the syntactic system of human language and the interpretive and processing systems. He recently became intrigued by the question of how language could have originated. In 2005, he published “On the Evolution and Genesis of Language: The Force of Imagination,” in the journal *Lingue e Linguaggio* (1, 81–110).

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University in Spain, where he directs field research at two Neanderthal sites. In 2006, he published “Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Murcia, Southeast Spain): An Acheulian and Levalloiso-Mousteroid Assemblage of Palaeolithic Artifacts Excavated in a Middle Pleistocene Faunal Context with Hominin Skeletal Remains,” in the journal *Eurasian Prehistory* (4, 3–43).

**Thomas Wynn** earned his doctorate in Anthropology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1977. He was one of the few who established cognitive archaeology as a viable approach in palaeoanthropology. He has published extensively on the evolution of human cognition, culminating in a target article in 2002: “Archaeology and Cognitive Evolution,” in the journal *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* (25, 3, 389–438). More recently, he has teamed with psychologist Frederick L. Coolidge to investigate the evolution of the modern mind, with an emphasis on executive functions and working memory. Thomas Wynn is currently Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

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