

# Hoaxy.com

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We let ourselves be fooled by organized religions and by the entertainment industry (both fiction and non-fiction) because they inspire us, and they need some hoaxes to be their best. What about the sciences of **Stone Age archaeology and paleoanthropology** (human origins)? They too exist mostly to inspire and entertain us. Their funding depends on the loyalty of their followers, who continually want exciting new discoveries. Errors in these sciences are ok: no plane will crash or bridge will collapse because of an error. I am realizing that these sciences also use some hoaxes to impress and inspire us best.



Figure 6. The footprint layer was covered up in 1979 by soil and boulders, purportedly to protect it. The cover-up also kept visiting geologists from seeing it. (Photo from Getty Conservation Institute, 18).

Figure 6 in my [manuscript on hoaxes in supposed East African human evolution](#)

**Hoax** is a 'four-letter word' in science, rarely spoken. Scientists might suspect a hoax, but don't want to investigate. If a scientist accused a colleague of hoax, it could quickly end his own career. And sciences often keep hoaxes hidden, to uphold their reputations.

But (sh)it happens. I do investigate, and have discovered that hoaxes ('[hoaxy](#)') happen quite often in paleoanthropology and Stone Age archaeology. It is only natural that there are hoaxes. An excavation or dig in a remote location can cost millions of dollars. And there is no guarantee that anything will be found. But with a simple hoax, the success of the project is almost certain. Success can lead to future digs and employment.

The simplest hoax is when team member 'XYZ' helps the team by secretly planting artifacts that others can find. The discoveries seem almost miraculous, but everyone is willing to accept a miracle. We might say it in biblical terms: «*Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*» and «*Seek, and ye shall find.*»

Norwegian Stone Age archaeology was founded on hoaxes a century ago by Anders Nummedal. He claimed to have found chipped stone artifacts lying loose nearly everywhere he looked on 10,000-year-old shoreline terraces. It is obvious now that no one finds artifacts that way, and he must have chipped those stones himself. But archaeologists are not willing to think that, because his hoaxes are important in current archaeology. [Read about Anders Nummedal's Stone Age discoveries.](#)

The standard story of human evolution is also based on hoaxes: Lucy, Laetoli footprints, and the Turkana Boy Homo Erectus skeleton. Humans probably evolved from isolated chimpanzees in west Africa, not in E. Africa. [Read about hoaxes in paleoanthropology.](#)

See my web sites: [Paleohuman.com](#) and [VikingRockArt.com](#) for in-depth documentation.

## Hoaxes in **paleoanthropology** and **Stone Age archaeology**

In these examples, XYZs are the people who arranged each hoax. Other people involved were ignorant or willfully ignorant.

Lucy bones include a baboon vertebra. They were probably planted by PhD student Tom Gray (XYZ) to make Professor Don Johanson's expedition a success.

Laetoli footprints are not millions of years old. They are incorrectly dated and then covered up by Mary Leakey to help hide the hoax.

The Turkana Boy Homo Erectus skeleton is modern bones that were broken and planted by Kamoya Kimeu (XYZ) and then manipulated by Richard Leakey (XYZ) and Alan Walker (XYZ)

Little Foot skeleton was assembled from parts of 4 skeletons by Ron Clarke (XYZ)

Handaxes were a prehistoric 'fad' in England, probably used as barter stones. But supposedly million-year-old handaxes elsewhere were probably planted by various 'XYZ's and are hoaxes

Other hoaxes and XYZs in paleoanthropology

Kamoya Kimeu and his 'Hominin Gang': the world's greatest fossil finders were XYZs.