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**Prehistoric Man.** *André Leroi-Gourhan.* Philosophical Library, New York, 1957. 47 photographs, 18 sketches, 120 pp. \$4.75.

As a summary of the status of thought *in the early 1950's* on prehistoric man in central Europe, this little book undoubtedly will satisfy some. In light and casual vein, it is written with little attempt at serious scientific discourse. The delightful description of the birth of tools, with many (9) lucid accompanying sketches, and the several ingenious illustrative devices (e.g., photograph of a primitive family in Indo-china above, and below, after sudden disaster, sketch of their bones and artifacts as might appear several millennia hence to the searching archeologist) made reading enjoyable.

It is not certain that translation from the French has helped. In certain passages strata probably should be read for soil, and ape for monkey. Throughout the book caribou certainly was intended, not reindeer (No evidence exists anywhere that these animals were domesticated.). The weak background in geology, particularly in Pleistocene geology, shows clearly, as in the chapter on climate and nature (strata, the glacial periods, and evidence furnished by plants and animals). The erroneous picture of glaciation in Europe, the narrow thinking on the origin of stream terraces, the several untenable statements and the out-dated information, in this day of enlightenment here seems unforgivable. Yet the text on prehistoric man is scrupulously written in an unprejudiced authoritative manner.

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