

# A SHORT PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE TWO FOSSIL TEETH FROM THE CAVE OF KARAIN, EXCAVATED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE TURKISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Dr. İ. Kılıç Kökten has brought me for study two fossil teeth he found in his excavation of the cave of Karain, in the vicinity of Antalya (Adalia). In his note to me regarding these fossils Dr. Kökten gives the following information:

"This summer (1949), in the cave of Karain (Antalya-Yağca village), where I have been conducting excavations for three years in the name of the Turkish Historical Society, I found a root, the upper part of which is broken, in the Mousterian I level of the lower grand chamber. I also found a cheek-tooth in the upper level of the thick, cemented kitchen-midden layer containing artifacts of Mousterian II and Aurignacian type and the fossil animal bones in the alcove, which I have called "Alcove D,, of the upper grand chamber of the same cave.

I make the request of you for a diagnosis of this root, which I find interesting, and the cheek-tooth, which I believe to belong to man, and to publish your report on them,,.

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Kökten for bringing me these teeth, which he has very carefully and skillfully extracted from the hard-cemented strata of Karain.

The first of the teeth brought by Dr. Kökten is represented by a broken root (Fig. 1). On the upper part of the root is preserved a small piece from the buccal surface of the crown. This root belongs to one of the incisors, probably to a lower incisor. Though at first glance this root gives the impression of a human tooth; when it is examined closely it is seen that in some features its morphology conspicuously diverges from the human roots. The family to which this broken root belongs to has not yet been diagnosed.

The second specimen is much better preserved than the first. This tooth is embedded in a hard bone-breccia. Though I cleaned the surrounding of the crown, I considered it more advisable not to extract the tooth from the bone-breccia. Figure 2 shows the condition of the tooth when it was brought to me by Dr. Kökten.

This tooth, which is considerably worn, is the second milk molar from the left side of the upper jaw. I compared this tooth with the upper second milk molars of the already published forms of fossil man and with those of recent man. The morphological features of this tooth reveal that it belongs to Neanderthal man (*Homo primigenius* = *Homo neanderthalensis*). This milk molar is the first specimen of fossil man and of Neanderthal man found so far in Anatolia.