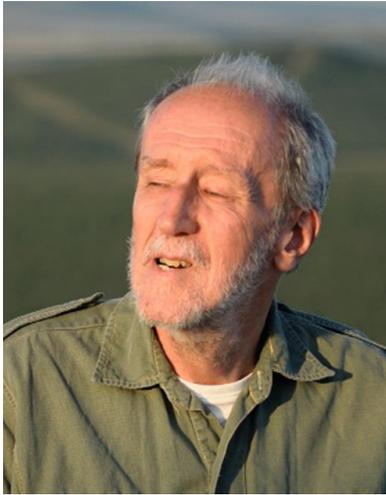


News

IN MEMORIAM: COLIN GROVES



Emeritus Professor Colin Groves passed away on 30 November 2017. He was 75.

An eminent academic, Colin was an editorial board member of the *Relict Hominoid Inquiry*. A world-renowned taxonomist, mammalogist, primatologist, paleoanthropologist, and biological anthropologist, he was also interested in cryptozoology—particularly in the possible existence of relict hominoids. To this subject he brought an open mind that expected a rigorous scientific approach from researchers. His clear and objective thinking, deep knowledge of mammals and hominins, articulate communication, and his generosity with his time were valuable assets to the editorial board of RHI and researchers. He was a member of the International Society of Cryptozoology, and I recall that he lamented the demise of the journal *Cryptozoology*,

and much appreciated its re-emergence.

Colin was awarded a BSc in Anthropology in 1963 (London), and in 1966, was awarded his PhD (London). He was invited to apply for a lectureship at the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Australian National University, arriving in Australia in 1974. In 1980, he was appointed Senior Lecturer; in 1988, Reader; in 2000, he was awarded a Professorship and upon his retirement in 2015, he was bestowed an emeritus position. During his career, he identified more than 50 species of animals. As late as November 2017, he was involved in the publication of research that identified a new species of orangutan in Sumatra, although, in his typical fashion, he downplayed his role in this research. He was researching and producing publications until just a week before he passed away.

Colin's PhD supervisor, and later colleague and close friend, was one of the founders of modern primatology, Professor John Napier. Professor Napier was interested in the origin of the Shipton footprints, the question of the existence of the *yeti* and *sasquatch*, the Patterson-Gimlin film, and the nature of the Minnesota Iceman. To these matters, he applied an investigative, analytical and thoughtful approach. Emeritus Professor Groves did not become quite so involved with these matters, but in his editorial roles, he applied the same scientific principles that focused on reliable and testable evidence and data.

A recent example of Colin's scientific approach is the question about the possible relationship between *Homo floresiensis* and the *ebu gogo* of Flores, Indonesia. Almost as soon as *Homo floresiensis* was announced, some researchers noted a possible connection between the two entities, an idea that was quickly taken up by the media. A small team recognized that this question could be approached archaeologically. Emeritus Professor Groves concurred, becoming a founding member of the team.

Colin was a brilliant but modest person with a gentle demeanor and great sense of humor. He was very approachable and had an open-door policy, and was never too busy to interact with students, staff, friends, and colleagues. He was open to the existence of unknown creatures and he expected researchers to apply scientific methods to cryptozoology, but would only engage further in research if there were scientific means by which possibilities could be tested. He will be sadly missed.

His cryptozoological publications include:

- 1984 But How Many Large, Terrestrial Animal Species Remain To Be Discovered? (Comment on Heuvelmans, *Cryptozoology* 2:1-24). *Cryptozoology* 3: 111-115.
- 1985 The Case Of The Pygmy Gorilla: A Cautionary Tale For Cryptozoology. *Cryptozoology* 4:37-44.
- 1986 The Yahoo, The Yowie, And Reports Of Australian Hairy Bipeds. *Cryptozoology* 5:47-54.

Debbie Argue
Australian National University

