

Frank Dürr and team of MUT

Origins. Steps of Mankind at Museum Alte Kulturen (MUT), Hohentübingen Castle, Tübingen, Germany

Till Dec. 3, 2017

The current annual exhibition of the Museum of the University of Tübingen (MUT) is devoted to the topic "Origins. Steps of Mankind". On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Museum "Alte Kulturen" at Hohentübingen Castle, the MUT's museum management identified the big steps in the cultural development of the human being and selected some spectacular objects which illustrate these steps. The exhibition lays the foundations for an up-and-coming trend of 3.6 million years to digital innovations of our time.

In the exhibition, we are seeing milestones in human development. For this, we have included current research and exhibits from many different scientific disciplines. We want to give our visitors the opportunity to think about and discuss the beginnings, the roots or the "very first".



Origin of matter and life: A piece from the Murchison Meteorite. At the cooling of the gas cloud of our universe, minerals were formed. From this primordial realm, our solar system originated 4,567 billion years ago. In addition to such substances, in this meteorite, for the first time, alien amino acids, the building materials of life, were detected. 4.5 billion years old, 234 grams, MUT Mineralogical Collection

A walk through the exhibition begins with a prologue on the origin of matter and life. The Murchison meteorite is shown, in which the scientists have for the first time demonstrated alien amino acids which are a prerequisite for life. The human "origins" begin in the MUT about 3.6 million years ago with the upright walk



The famous "Lucy" skeleton (*Australopithecus afarensis*), approx. 3,6 million years old

Dentition fragment of a pre-human species: The Tübingen researcher Ludwig Kohl-Larsen discovered in 1939 during an expedition in the British Tanganyika (today's Tanzania) at the Garusi river the upper jaw fragment with two frontal molars. It is the first found bone piece of an *Australopithecus afarensis* and the oldest object with relation to *homo sapiens* at the exhibition. 3.6 million years old, Kohl-Larsen Collection



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The flute fragment is 42 mm long and measures 8,97 mm in diameter. It is the middle part of a bone that has been worked as a flute. The archaeozoological determination allocates it to a goose-vulture. Two approaches of mute holes as well as the characteristic overwork of the surface clearly reveal it as a flute. Vogelherd Cave, about 40 000 years old

and a previously described upper jaw fragment of the "*Australopithecus afarensis* (Garusi)". Afterwards, the exhibition focusses on the beginnings of art, religion and music. A 40 000-year-old bird bone flute, which is considered to be one of the oldest man-made and played musical instruments, is exposed. Further exhibits illustrate the beginning of war between men, show when and how people settled down, and finally developed the first written documents in Egypt and Mesopotamia.

The next selected exhibition element are the beginnings of democracy in ancient Greece. The modern era with the discovery of America and the beginning of colonialism marks the beginning of globalization about 500 years ago. With the Industrial Revolution starting from 1800, the people separated themselves from agriculture and self-sufficiency. Technical developments brought modern dreams such as social equality or the journey to the moon within reach. The present is also characterized by the beginning of new developments. For example, the exhibitors show a NAO robot from the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems. It stands for the digital innovations, which will (and will) cause profound social changes.



Origin of the Scripture: Fragment of a document from the Uruk III period. The letters, arranged in a band, divided by separate transverse lines, are signs that look more like pictorials than letters: the uppermost is reminiscent of the outline of a fish. And yet, it is the beginning of Scripture. 5000 years old, Ancient Oriental Collection

More at <https://www.uni-museum.uni-tuebingen.de/de-ausstellungen/sonderausstellungen/origins.html>

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Begegnungen hinter Stacheldraht

Deutsche Kriegsgefangene im Lager Bandō in Japan 1917–1920
Mit zahlreichen Leihgaben aus Japan

Ausstellung im Museum Lüneburg
28. April 2017 bis 23. Juli 2017



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