

V. Impressions: (continued)

8. The digit appears to be smoothly amputated at or near the PIP joint.
9. The digit appears to show less thickness and a more acutely angled slope in the distal finger tuft, compatible with a female versus male appearance.
10. There appears to be mild fusiform enlargement of the digit, in that it's size is uniformly presented from the base of the nail to the more proximal amputated end. Missing are the outer creases for both the dorsal and ventral markings of the DIP joint.
11. The transected proximal segment shows an inner pattern compatible with the exact placement for a proximal location of the middle phalangeal shaft.
12. The digit shows no suggestions of clubbing.
13. The digit shows no appearance of scars, or deformation to represent possible traumatic or growth abnormalities.
14. There are no deformities to indicate arthritides (i.e., osteoarthritis with Heberden's nodes, joint deformity or angulation compatible with rheumatoid arthritis, or nail bed abnormalities compatible with psoriatic arthritis).
15. An amputated finger at the PIP joint would assume the neutral position for the DIP joint with severing of the sublimus and profundus tendons not influencing in deflection the DIP joint.
16. Radial radiations and bands noted in the proximal transection are compatible with delicate structures in the hands known as Cleland's and Grayson's ligaments.
17. Fossilization of this supposed digit does not demonstrate grossly the structures of the dorsal extensor tendon, or the volar sublimus or profundus tendons.
18. The overall length from the PIP joint to the distal end implies a long gracefully tapered finger with the relationship of PIP joint to finger tip length roughly correlated a large overall skeletal structure. Proportionate studies could verify finger to height ratios, but the implication of this specific find relates to a possible overall skeletal frame of an individual standing well over 6 feet in height.
19. The evidence is compatible with the finger being severed from the body before becoming buried to subsequently undergo fossilization because of the neutral position of the DIP joint.

VI. Conclusions:

1. (Unless studies could subsequently prove manufacturing, or carving, or less likely, that the digit belongs to some as yet undiscovered human like creature), the specimen presented by appearance, form, symmetry, and sectioning information appears to be a fossilized phalanx of human origin.