

OBSERVATIONS ON A FOSSILIZED FINGER AS PRESENTED TO ME BY DR. CARL E. BAUGH

I. Gross Observation - The object examined is a straight phalanx form stone or fossilized structure of cylindrical shape, with one tapered end having a dorsal impression of a nail bed appearance. The specimen has been precisely sectioned obliquely in two regions to give three smooth adjoining pieces. Due to this sectioning, the overall longitudinal length appears minimally shortened, and the sections fit together congruently, but not precisely. The overall digit appears to be the entire section of a finger that has been amputated through or just distal to the design of a digit. The most striking topographic relief form is the depression and expansion of a nail bed. Under the nail bed, a tapered end gradually slopes towards the ventral surface. Dorsally, the cuticle structure is depressed and the lunula area is exposed, but not fully having some irregularity in form on the right side when viewed from the top. The left side of the most distal part of the digit has a more gradual slope than the right, preceding proximal from the distal digit. The overall appearance shows no distinguishing outer markings. This excludes obvious markings of manufacturing, etching, or carving. The proximal end shows a flat, rounded base with no outer distinguishing markings.

II. Texture - The fossil digit displays a light stone quality, the outer surface is smooth, the cut inner surfaces are polished by the transection.

III. The Transected Sections - Within the transected segments, there is an outer rim approximately 1mm thick of lighter stained quality. The inner contents show different arrangements of speckles and are stained with darker browns and grays. In the proximal transection, there is a circular pattern in the innermost area of the cut, which shows a cylindrical shape of a lighter stained structure. No distinguishing inner cylindrical structure or staining appearance is seen in the distal transection. Noted radiating to the right and left sides of the more proximal cylindrical structure are some light stained bands which reach toward the surface of the outer margins.

IV. The Measurements - Please see the adjoining page of the measurements taken of the fossilized digit form. These measurements and observations were formed on June 27, 1990, using for light imaging a 100 watt desk top bulb, a desk top magnifying glass, and a metric ruler.

V. Impressions:

1. Stoned artifact in digit form.
2. The digit is intact (except for the sectioned areas), from the proximal interphalangeal joint to include the remaining portion of the finger including distal nail bed and distal finger tuft.
3. To gross examination, the digit bears no manufacturing indications.
4. The distal interphalangeal joint is in neutral alignment.
5. The cuticle area appears without details of defect, pitting, striations, etc.
6. The cuticle margins do not appear abnormal except for a filled in area on the right side which does show some irregular filling.
7. There are no major deformities of the nail bed.