

the United States in a “body bag.” Heuvelmans and **Boris Porshnev**, in their 1974 book, *L’Homme de Néanderthal est toujours vivant*, wrote that it may indeed have been possible for Captain Hansen to have obtained the body and arranged to have it flown back in the same manner as the bodies of American soldiers killed in action. As history now reveals, this is the way that many kilos of heroin were slipped into the U.S. from Asia’s Golden Triangle during the Vietnam War. The “transport” system was very much a reality. In the scholarly book *Other Origins* (1990; about *Gigantopithecus*), the anthropologist authors, Russell Ciochon, John Olsen, and Jamie James, discuss how they were surprised to hear their Vietnamese colleagues talk with familiarity about this alleged Vietnamese origin for the Minnesota Iceman. **Helmut Loofs-Wissowa** also supports the Indochinese link.

Others have debated Heuvelmans’s theory. Hall questions the Iceman’s supposed Vietnamese origin and alleged Neandertal affinity and today feels the original Minnesota Iceman was of south-central Asian *Homo erectus* origin.

But the evidence that would resolve the issue is no longer with us. Hall’s final words on the matter, from *Wonders 3* (1994), are worth quoting: “We have seen in the Iceman what happens when a specimen of this kind is finally preserved. . . . Among them the only three who saw the importance of the specimen were powerless to influence his fate. His destiny was to be valueless and to disappear entirely from within our midst. He ended his career as a public entertainment most probably in an unmarked grave.”

In 1997, what looked like a new version of the affair of the Minnesota Iceman occurred in France, in the heart of the country at Bourgneuf. According to French cryptozoologist **Michel Raynal**, it was indeed a hoax, and amusingly, the Belgium publisher of the journal *Cryptozoologia* was unwittingly responsible. Soon, the media had created a flap with stories of a “frozen man” of Bourgneuf, whose creator had obviously read Heuvelmans and Porshnev’s 1974 book.

MNGWA

The Mngwa (“the strange one”) is the “great gray ghost” of East Africa. Natives of the former Tanganyika (now Tanzania) insist that the *mngwa* is not *simba* (the lion). They have known of the Mngwa for hundreds of

years, describing the animal as an extremely aggressive, gigantic, unknown felid the size of a donkey.

English contact with the animal began, in earnest, in the 1900s. During the 1930s and 1940s, the Mngwa was commonly known by the name Nunda, but because of the books of Gardner Soule (*The Mystery Monsters* and *The Maybe Monsters*) and **Bernard Heuvelmans**, Mngwa is the appellation now more frequently employed. An influential, open-minded discussion of this **cryptid** appeared in the then-world-famous British scientific journal *Discovery* in 1938.

In his *Nature Parade* (1954) romantic naturalist Frank W. Lane writes of his interview with Patrick Bowen, a hunter, who tracked a Mngwa. Bowen remarked that the spoor were like a leopard's but much larger. The fur was brindled but visibly different from a leopard's. Lane, a cryptozoologist before the label even existed, speculated that nineteenth-century reports of attacks by the South African *chimiset*, usually associated with the **Nandi Bear**, might more plausibly be linked to the Mngwa.

Bernard Heuvelmans theorizes that the Mngwa may be an abnormally colored specimen of some known species or that it may be a larger subspecies of the golden cat (*Profelis aurata*).

MOAS

In 1958 **Bernard Heuvelmans** titled a chapter of his *On the Track of Unknown Animals* "The Moa, a Fossil That May Still Thrive." Moas, both medium-sized and giant forms, have been reported periodically in New Zealand since their supposed extinction five hundred years ago. Moas, flightless birds, are related to New Zealand's kiwis, to Australian emus, to Australian and New Guinea cassowaries, to African ostriches, and to South American rheas.

Writing in the 1960s, **Ivan T. Sanderson** took note of continuing—albeit rare—sightings of Moas on New Zealand's South Island. The most recent alleged sighting of a large Moa took place on January 20, 1993, in the Craigieburn Range. Three individuals sighted and photographed what they insisted was a six-foot-tall bird. They swore it was a Moa, not an emu, ostrich, red deer, or any of the other expert-proposed animal candidates.

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