


Yale Club

Vanderbilt Avenue and Forty-fourth Street
New York

February 2, 1921

Dear M. Cartailhac :- I was very much pleased to receive your note of January 10th. Almost at the same time I received from a friend in Paris, who knew of my interest in the subject, a copy of M. Boule's *Les Hommes Fossiles*, which I am reading with great pleasure.

 I am glad to see your estimate of the book. Without knowing more of M. Boule than he tells in his preface I had before reading your note come to the conclusion that the book was of more than ordinary authority. The writer seemed to have ^{had} exceptional opportunity for many years to hear and weigh

the views of all experts, and, to use a bit of American slang, he seemed to "keep his feet on the ground" all the time, and not wander off into vain imaginings, as a substitute for justifiable conclusions. It is pleasant to have this opinion of my own, formed on such incomplete data as I possess, confirmed by your knowledge of the subject.

The failure of your note to reach me is easily explainable. I remained in Paris only a few hours after writing you, and then was in England (mainly in London) for a couple of weeks, and then returned to New York. It is easy for mail to go astray under such circumstances, and postal officers, in this country at least, seem to-day a little affected by an after-war nonchalance in the

performance of their duties. I shall be very glad to hear of the result of the new fouilles when they become active. And if a little more assistance will help them along I may be able to extend it.

I judge that the publications of Masson & Co. of which you have sent me a list would with Les Hommes Fossiles really give me a little library d'amateur on the subject, so that the next time I come to the Dordogne I can see more understandingly. Possibly you may not know that I learned a good deal from the compressed course of lectures you gave me that morning last October in the Museum at Toulouse. A lawyer whose mind is trained to grasp and group facts quickly is naturally a quicker student than the ordinary beginner. I was quite interested at Les Eyzies to notice the face of the old woman who was running the little auberge near the railway where I lunched. She looked so much like the "Old Man" of Cro-Magnon. I afterwards saw in Osborn's books and notes in Poulet's that the Cro-Magnon type of face persists in the Dordogne. The illustration of the young man in Les Hommes Fossiles, selected as a type of the survival man when analyzed show a closer resemblance, but the shape of the face of this woman was, to me, striking.

Excuse my writing in English. I read French with facility, but can only write it inaccurately, and I am sure you will have no difficulty in reading English.

I am gratified that you should have written me of your enjoyment of your trip to Paris and trust you will find even more enjoyable successes ahead of you.

Yours sincerely,
J. de la Roche.