

BIRDS**PERU****2013 September 12** (Prehistoric Animals)1820 SS 10s Extinct penguin remains, *Inkayacu paracasensis* Neognathae: Sphenisciformes**AMPHIBIA****AUSTRALIA****2013 September 24** (Australia's Age of Dinosaurs)

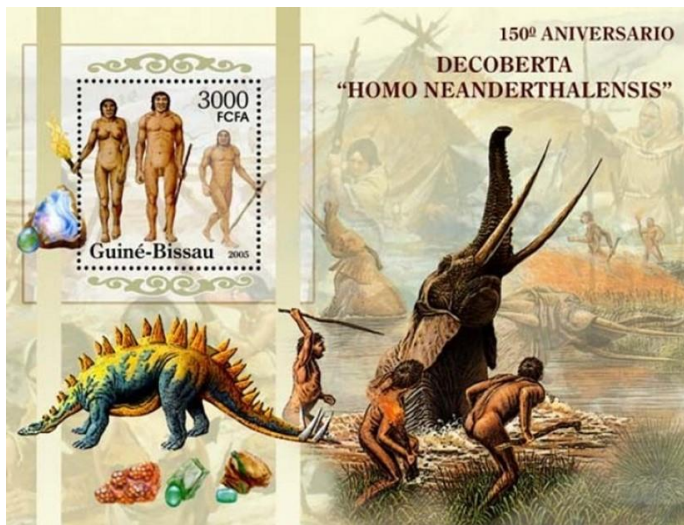
3986 60c *Koolasuchus cleelandi* Temnospondyli: Stereospondyli
 3986a Bklt pane 4 (Sc#3986) (perf 14½×14)
 3986b 60c Same amphibian (perf 14½) Temnospondyli: Stereospondyli
 3991c SS of 6 (Sc#3986b, 3987b, 3988c, 3989b, 3990c, 3991b)
 3992 60c *Koolasuchus cleelandi* Temnospondyli: Stereospondyli
 3993a Bklt pane 10 (Sea Sc#3992–93) (s/a, die cut 11¼)

NEANDERTHAL GENES

[Ed. note. This item is based on an article by Geoffrey Mohan published in The Los Angeles Times on 29 January 2014, that itself was a report on genomic studies by Sankararaman, et al., published in the journal Nature, and by Vernot and Akey published in the journal Science.]

The authors of these studies report that anatomically modern humans overlapped and mated with Neanderthals such that non-African humans inherit between one and three percent of their genomes from Neanderthal ancestors. The studies were based on specific sequences of altered DNA that both Neanderthals and several hundred modern Europeans and Asians had in common.

The studies suggest that the strongest remnant of our Neanderthal heritage appears to be related to as-yet unknown changes in skin and hair that likely proved advantageous. The interbreeding between the two species likely occurred around 50,000 years ago and may have involved as few as 300 matings. According to Joshua M. Akey, a population geneticist from the University of Washington, and author of the studies, "Collectively, there is a substantial part of the Neanderthal genome that's still floating around in the human population that's just shattered into different pieces, and everyone has slightly different parts." At least 20 percent of the Neanderthal genome is included in the genome of our European and Asian ancestors, with East Asians retaining slightly more of it, according to the study.



Homo neanderthalensis
Guinea-Bissau

The Neanderthal genome project has made large advances in the past several years in the understanding of our closest human relatives, who vanished about 28,000 years ago. Other studies have traced important immune system genes to Neanderthals and another extinct group, the Denisovans. Scientists are working to determine what other advantages or disadvantages we may have inherited from these distant relatives.

On 15 July 2005, Guinea-Bissau issued a MS of five plus five labels and a SS to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the discovery of Neanderthal remains.

The SS depicts the robust bodies of a male and female Neanderthal with a group of hunters attacking a trapped mammoth in the margin. It also includes an anachronistic image of a stegosaurus, a species that went extinct 150 million years before Neanderthals came into existence.

Reference:

<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-neanderthal-genes-20140129,0,1218853.story>