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Harvard University Press
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Cambridge, MA 02138

The following review appeared in the July 2008 issue of CHOICE:

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Sommer, Marianne. **Bones and ochre: the curious afterlife of the Red Lady of Paviland.** Harvard, 2008 (c2007). 398p
bibl index afp ISBN 9780674024991, \$39.95

Bones and Ochre is a serious study of the origins and development of paleoanthropological reasoning, a contribution to the history of science in general, and in particular, an in-depth view of aspects of one of the most important and productive periods of evolutionary science, the first half of the 19th century. For that reason, it is a shame that the title hides the real value of this book. The subtitle should have been "The Evolution of Paleoanthropological Thinking," because very few people have heard of the Red Lady of Paviland. This scholarly work by science historian Sommer (ETH Zürich) bristles with thoughtful analyses of what many 19th-century luminaries thought of science (e.g., T. H. Huxley on method in paleontology and geology, to mention one of many philosophical forays). Sommer also introduces a parade of key characters from that century of science, from Buckland through Darwin to Haeckel. From catastrophism to evolutionism, from the role of society that influenced anthropological interpretations, and the individual perspectives of various scholars of yore, this work offers the reader food for thought and challenging illuminations. A fine book. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. General readers; lower-division undergraduates through researchers/faculty. -- F. S. Szalay, *University of New Mexico*