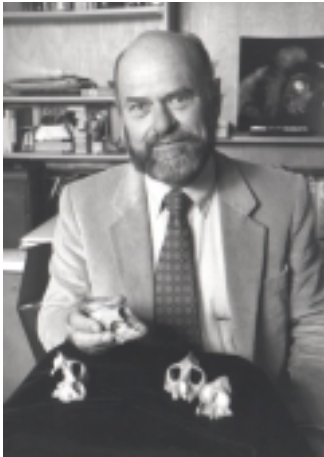


Dr. Elwyn L. Simons is a James B. Duke Professor of Biological Anthropology and Anatomy, Head of the Division of Fossil Primates and the Senior Primate Biologist and at the Duke University Primate Center. He holds degrees from Rice University (B.S.), Princeton University (M.S., Ph.D.), University College, Oxford (D.Phil, D.Sc.), and Yale University (M.A., Hon.). He has held professional appointments at Yale University (1960-1977), Duke University (1977-present), and was the Director of the Duke Primate Center (1977-1991) and Scientific Director (1991-2001). Through his



long and distinguished career, he has established himself as the premier international authority on anthropoid origins and an expert on fossil and living primates generally. He has been the author of nearly 300 scientific publications and

is the holder of many high honors. He is a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, as well as many other professional associations. He was elected a "Knight of the National Order" by the government of Madagascar and has been the recipient of many awards including the prestigious Charles R. Darwin Award for Lifetime Achievement from the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Dr. Simons has led over 70 field expeditions to Egypt, Madagascar, India, Iran, Nepal, and Wyoming. Many of the world's leading paleontologists and primatologists were trained by Dr. Simons as his former students.

DIVISION OF FOSSIL PRIMATES FACILITIES

Currently the Division of Fossil Primates is housed in a building leased by Duke University adjacent to the campus. The research endeavors of the Division are supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Leakey Foundation, The National Geographic Society, and private donations. The costs to the Division for renting the current facility to house and study the collections is covered in tandem by Duke University and by private donations secured by Dr. Simons. A more permanent housing solution is sought through purchase of the building. A heavy obligation lies on all of us to see that these remarkable specimens, which document our evolutionary history, will remain available to scientists and will be protected in perpetuity.

The Division continues to amass fossil specimens through yearly expeditions to Egypt, Madagascar, and Wyoming. Greater than 1,000 specimens per year are added to the collection from the Egyptian field work alone. These collections are actively studied by scientists and students from around the world. Additionally, the Division is now undertaking a project to digitize and computerize the collections so that researchers and students alike will be able to utilize this unparalleled resource through an online database.

If you would like to help Dr. Simons and the Division of Fossil Primates in meeting these monetary goals for either expeditionary or facilities costs, please refer to the contact information below to get in touch with us. All contributions are tax-deductible. Dr. Simons, his students and all of his international collaborators greatly appreciate any assistance you can provide.

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DUKE UNIVERSITY PRIMATE CENTER

DIVISION OF



FOSSIL PRIMATES



THE FOSSIL COLLECTION

Duke University is currently the guardian of a singular resource for understanding primate evolutionary history. This collection, consisting of nearly 22,000 fossils, includes the world's premier series of early ancestors of apes and monkeys. Primate fossils from Egypt number about 1,000, from Madagascar about 2,000, and from India and Wyoming about 600. The early anthropoids housed in the collection are from the Fayum region of Egypt, such as *Parapithecus* shown on the cover, and belong to the following genera:

- *Aegyptopithecus*
- *Proteopithecus*
- *Propliopithecus*
- *Arsinoea*
- *Apidium*
- *Qatrania*
- *Parapithecus*
- *Serapia*
- *Catopithecus*
- *Abuqatrania*

These primates constitute the world's only undoubted early members of the suborder Anthropoidea from which human ancestry arose, the assignment of most other Eocene fossils being currently uncertain. *Aegyptopithecus* of the Oligocene epoch and *Catopithecus* from the Eocene are generally believed to be closest to the stem-line of human ancestry and frequently appear in current anthropology textbooks.

These fossils are as significant, or more, to primate history as the Dead Sea Scrolls are to Biblical history.



Crushed skull of *Catopithecus browni*, an early monkey from the late Eocene of Egypt.

Aegyptopithecus

Aegyptopithecus is the one of the best known early anthropoid primates. Our collection holds parts of three faces, two partial skulls, several dozen upper and lower jaws and numerous postcranial bones. We also have many specimens of two species of a close relative of *Aegyptopithecus*, *Propliopithecus*.



Skull of *Aegyptopithecus zeuxis* exposed by wind erosion at Quarry M, Fayum, Egypt.

Catopithecus and *Proteopithecus*

The two most common archaic anthropoid primates in our collection from the late Eocene belong to these genera. *Catopithecus* is definitely an Old World higher primate or catarrhine, while *Proteopithecus* is a much more generalized primate that some have thought may be related to the origin of the New World monkeys. Both of these small monkey-like animals are fundamentally important to all considerations of the origins of these two major groups of primates. They are the only Eocene higher primates in the world that have had cranio-dental material found in association with limb bones.

Our collection now houses a series of skulls of *Catopithecus*, about three dozen mandibles or maxillae and about a dozen limb bones. These limb bones have allowed us to reconstruct the manner of movement and lifestyle of both these genera.

For *Proteopithecus* we also hold numerous jaws and maxillae, two skulls and about a half dozen limb bones.

Parapithecus

Parapithecus and *Apidium* belong to a subfamily that is the most primitive group of undoubted higher primates. Hence, they can be considered the only presently known "stem" anthropoids. Because of this, their anatomical relationships to contemporaneous and later primates are extremely important for understanding primate history.

The Duke collection houses a very large number of fossils of this group. For *Apidium*, the most common Fayum mammal, there are two partial skulls, about 140 upper or lower jaws, and approximately 90 limb bones. For *Parapithecus* there is one extremely well preserved skull (shown on the cover), about 40 jaws, or maxillae, and a number of well-preserved limb bones.

Because of agreements negotiated by Dr. Simons, all these primates are original fossils (not reproductions). Hence, the collection is the only one in the United States that holds such a wide variety of early anthropoid fossils.

Subfossil Lemurs

In addition to the early anthropoid primate material from Egypt, our collection also houses the world's best collection of subfossil lemurs from the island of Madagascar. These materials record a remarkable diversity of these lemurs ranging from the smaller *Mesopropithecus* to the larger sloth lemurs such as *Palaeopropithecus* and *Archaeoindris*. New species are still being found and described and much remains to be learned about these extinct primates. Discoveries made by Simons' group have revolutionized our understanding of the lifestyle of these exotic primates. Several whole skeletons, such as the one shown below, have been collected on Simons' expeditions. Finds range in age from about 510 to about 26,000 years before the present.



Palaeopropithecus skeleton