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SOME COMMENTS ON THE CONTRIBUTION BY HANS-PETER SCHULZ
AND TAPANI ROSTEDT ON SUSILUOLA

As Schulz and Rostedt have taken upon themselves the task of making critical comments about the contributions on Susiluola in *Fennoscandia archaeologica* 24 (2007), including my contribution, some comments may be appropriate.

The discussion on the cave has unfortunately deteriorated into a question of believers and non-believers concerning the fractioned stones found in the cave, whether they are artefacts or naturally fractured pebbles and cobbles. As an example of this is the conclusion by Schulz and Rostedt that: 'To our opinion, the arguments presented by Donner are not convincing.' In support of their opinion they illustrate it with yet another misleading drawing of the chipped rounded pebble they interpret as an end scraper. It is thus a choice between an opinion and what one can see with the naked eye.

Another problem is the suggested Eemian age of some of the cave sediments. The range of 14 ka to 36 ka for five new OSL ages of sediment samples from Susiluola (Auri et al. 2008) does not strengthen this assumption.

Lastly, the cave was hardly suitable for habitation because of its shape, in which inhabitants would have suffocated, and because of it being near the top of a hill without easy access to fresh water, as pointed out by Forsström (2005).

All in all, the story built up about Susiluola is not convincing, to use the vocabulary of Schultz and Rostedt. The repeated defence of its having been inhabited by Neanderthals reminds me of the statement by Agatha Christie's Poirot: 'If a thing is clear as daylight – eh bien, mistrust it! Someone has made it so.'

REFERENCES

- Auri, J., Breilin, O., Hirvas, H., Huhta, P., Johansson, P., Mäkinen, K., Nenonen, K. & Sarala, P. 2008. Tiedonanto eräiden myöhäspaneoloseenikerrostumien avain-kohteiden ajoittamisesta Suomessa. *Geologi* 3/2008: 68–74.
- Forsström, L. 2005. Susiluola ei ole uskottava neandertalin ihmisen asuinpaikkana. *Tieteessä tapahtuu* 6/2005: 43–45.