Neanderthal Scapulae with Special Attention to the Shanidar Neanderthals from Iraq

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Introduction

So far as the evidence goes, it appears that scapulae of the ancient men known as Neanderthals differ from those of modern men mainly in having usually a more or less well-developed gutter or sulcus along the *dorsal* side of the axillary border (figs. 3, 4, 5, 7, 13). This being the case, it follows that the scapulae of modern men usually show the reverse arrangement ; in other words, they show a well-developed sulcus on the *ventral* side of the axillary border (figs. 2,13). For purposes of description these sulci are called, respectively, s. dorso-axillaris (or s. axillaris teretis) and s. ventro-axillaris (or s. axillaris subscapularis).

Although the dichotomy in axillary border morphology has some exceptions which will be explained, there can be little doubt that it is essentially reliable and extremely important in connection with current ideas regarding the genesis of the modern variety of man. For example, McCown and Keith (1939) found a marked difference between the axillary borders of the scapulae of the Skhūl and Tabūn remains – different varieties of Neanderthals from Mount Carmel in Palestine (now Israel). In the four examples that have survived, the scapulae of Tabūn I are much more Neanderthaloid than are those of Skhūl IV, V, and IX. Where do the new Neanderthals from Shanidar cave in northern Iraq fit into this picture ? It has been suggested from the evidence of the skulls and hip bones of the Mount Carmel-Shanidar specimens "that an early variety