



PEABODY MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

PRESS RELEASE

What: FREE Lecture and Reception

Where: Geological Lecture Hall,
Harvard University, 24 Oxford Street,
Cambridge, MA; Reception follows in
the Peabody Museum, 11 Divinity Ave.

When: Thursday, March 6, 2008, 5:30
pm

Contact: 617-496-1027 (public
information)

Lecture title: “**Hobbits in the
Haystack: *Homo floresiensis* and
Human Evolution**”



Lecture by: William L. Jungers, Professor and Chairman, Department of Anatomical Sciences,
Stony Brook University

(Cambridge, January 24, 2008) The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology presents
Hobbits in the Haystack: *Homo floresiensis* and Human Evolution

Known in the popular press as the “hobbits,” the small-bodied, small-brained, culture-bearing hominins from the Late Pleistocene of Indonesia are attributed to a new species of our own genus, *Homo floresiensis*. These unexpected and controversial fossils have served to challenge our understanding of the human career. Evolving in isolation, they present a unique anatomical package of primitive and derived features that suggests either surprisingly ancient ancestry or evolutionary reversals. Their body design is never observed in modern humans, including the smallest people on Earth. Tools and fire were made with primitive hands and a chimpanzee-sized brain. Just over a meter tall and robustly built, they walked bipedally on short hind-limbs that sported long feet. Attempts to dismiss the hobbits as pathological (microcephalic) Asian pygmies are misguided but perhaps expected.

Speaker

William L. Jungers (Ph.D. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) is a Professor in and Chairman of

the Department of Anatomical Sciences at the Stony Brook University School of Medicine. Dr. Jungers is an internationally known biological anthropologist and professor of anatomy. He has authored or co-authored two books and over 150 articles. He has written extensively on *Homo floresiensis*.

This lecture is jointly sponsored by the Peabody Museum and The Leakey Foundation.

About the Peabody Museum

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. It is home to superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum's photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, holds more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-19th century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

Location: *The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.*

Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM, 7 days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$9.00 for adults, \$7.00 for students and seniors, \$6.00 for children, 3–18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The Museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 AM to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 PM to 5 PM (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. The Peabody Museum participates in the City Pass and WGBH programs. For more information call (617) 496-1027 or go online to: www.peabody.harvard.edu.

Media Contact: Pamela Gerardi, Director of External Affairs

Peabody Museum

11 Divinity Ave.

Cambridge, MA 02138

Tel: (617) 496-0099; Fax: (617) 495-7535, gerardi@fas.harvard.edu