**Camelid Sacrum**



1. The camelid sacrum has unique prehistoric sculpture of a dog-like animal (below) was discovered accidentally in 1870 in Tequixquiac, Mexico—in the Valley of Mexico.
2. Language and iconographic evidence strongly suggests that the sacrum bone was an important bone indeed in Mesoamerica, relating to sacredness, to resurrection, and to fire.
3. The carving likely dates too sometime between 14,000–7000 B.C.E.
4. A camelid is a member of the Camelidae family—camels, llamas, and alpacas. The sacrum is the large triangular bone at the base of the spine. Holes were cut into the end of the bone to represent nostrils, and the bone is also engraved.
5. In English, “sacrum” is derived from Latin: os sacrum, meaning “sacred bone.” The sacrum is also—perhaps significantly for its meaning—located near the reproductive organs.
6. The carving and markings were made by human hands—the two circular spaces that represent the nasal cavities were carefully carved and are perfectly symmetrical and were likely shaped by a sharp instrument
7. . The date of the sculpture is difficult to determine because a stratigraphic analysis was not done at the find spot at the time of discovery.
8. Like the Camelid the prehistoric art has been found around the globe—in North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia—and that new sites.
9. The carving was made in a period before writing had developed, it is likely impossible to know what the sculpture meant to the carver and to his/her culture.
10. The lack of scientific evidence from the find spot—other scholars have questioned its age, and whether the object was even made by human hands. It cause serious discrepancy of its value which culture it was from.