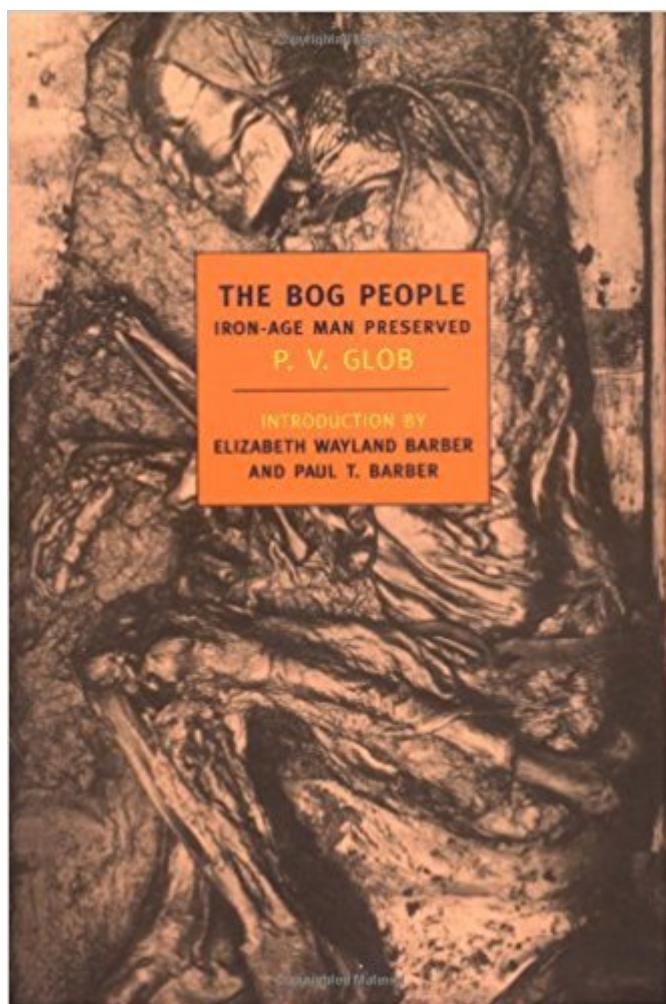


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The Bog People: Iron Age Man Preserved (New York Review Books Classics)



Synopsis

One spring morning two men cutting peat in a Danish bog uncovered a well-preserved body of a man with a noose around his neck. Thinking they had stumbled upon a murder victim, they reported their discovery to the police, who were baffled until they consulted the famous archaeologist P.V. Glob. Glob identified the body as that of a two-thousand-year-old man, ritually murdered and thrown in the bog as a sacrifice to the goddess of fertility.Â Written in the guise of a scientific detective story, this classic of archaeological history--a best-seller when it was published in England but out of print for many years--is a thoroughly engrossing and still reliable account of the religion, culture, and daily life of the European Iron Age.Â Includes 76 black-and-white photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A fascinating account of the discoveries and of what they tell us about the life and death of the Iron Age people.Â • Times Literary SupplementGlob deserves gratitude not only for preserving these astonishing underground survivors physically, but for a fascinating exposition of their way of life.Â • Daily TelegraphA splendid book, full of detail and fascination not only for the specialist, who would indeed benefit from reading it, but for anyone interested in the techniques and results of first-rate archaeological research.Â • Nature

Text: English, Danish (translation) --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

The charm of this book begins with its dedication to 15 girls, one of whom is the author's daughter; the others were a group of English school girls who had learned about Tollund Man (a bog body discovered in 1950 that Glob had investigated and written about) in school. They wanted more information "Our set is very interested in History" they wrote and in reply he wrote The Bog People. Glob has the advantage over other writers of having seen Tollund Man and Grauballe Man in situ within hours of their discovery and he writes of them and the Iron Age in great detail with both clarity and sensitivity. Even the controversy that surrounded the discovery of Grauballe Man which serves as a cautionary tale to any scientist or historian is handled with grace. Other reviewers have complained that the science is dated, that is true; however the discussion of each body and the context in which he places them is both scholarly and accessible and the photographs are instructive and well chosen. It's hard to imagine a better or more thorough introduction to the subject.

The Bog People is one of the great classics of archaeology. It is now a little dated. The research has come a long way since 1965, when it was first published in Danish. But is a huge pleasure to read, and this edition is beautiful -- part of the outstanding series from the New York Review of Books, notable for the attention both to great but neglected works and to the quality of book making in the editions (great binding, typography, acid-free paper, etc.) I first read this in the 1970s and it spurred my interest in archaeology and physical anthropology. This edition is of far better quality. And NYRB has priced its editions very reasonably.

There are newer, more detailed, more exciting books about bog bodies, but this is the one that started it all. Read this first because every other book on the subject mentions this one. A quick and engrossing read.

This book was so interesting! Couldn't put it down! In addition to information about the bog people, Glob also inserted several legends and bits of folklore that I'd never heard before. Very fun book.

I haven't finished it but so far it's good.

So very interesting!

Ever since I took my anthro degree up teen years ago. I have been interested in the daily life of

Europeans - especially the scarcely documented life. At long last, I read a decent review of the "bog men" of Northern Europe. My only regret with the book is that I get the feeling it may be dated - as recent discoveries are not included.

A fascinating, well-illustrated volume on a little known phenomenon

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