

# Out of the Past

## The History of Human Osteology at the University of Toronto



### The Academic Career of Dr. Jerry Melbye

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It is my pleasure to chronicle the academic career of Dr. Jerry Melbye in honor of his retirement from a long and distinguished professorship at the University of Toronto. His career has spanned 32 years from the late 1960s into the post-modern millennium. He has played an integral role in Canadian anthropology and has been an important bridge between the past and future of physical anthropology, human osteology, and forensic science at the University of Toronto.

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Figure 1. High School graduation photo, 1954.

Upon graduation, he worked for the National Park Service - National Geographic Society Wetherill Mesa Archaeological Project in Mesa Verde, Colorado,, from 1959-1961. The team, under the supervision of Dr. Douglas Osborne, investigated the environment and life ways of prehistoric cliff dwellers (Osborne, 1964).

Following the Mesa Verde contract, Melbye worked on two salvage archaeological projects; first, as Director of Pipeline Salvage Archaeology for the Gulf Interstate Oil Company in New Mexico, and then as the Director of Highway Salvage archaeology directed by the Southern Illinois University with Dr. Richard Brooks (Melbye, 1963a, 1964b, 1964c, 1964d, 1964e, 1964f, 1965). It was through his contact with Dr. Sheilagh Brooks, Richard's wife, that Melbye's interest in human osteology was fully ignited. Together, he and Sheilagh examined paleopathological conditions of Middle Mississippian human remains (Brooks and Melbye, 1967), and burial orientation (Melbye, 1964a).

Figure 2. Melbye at the Mesa Verde Project, (Photo taken from *National Geographic*, 1964).

He applied to graduate school to work with Dr. Bill Bass at Kansas State University and Dr. James Anderson at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He was accepted to both programs, but decided to study with Anderson in New York. It was a decision that, in Melbye's words, changed his life.

Figure 3. Dr. James Anderson at the Pic Archaeological Site, 1960 (Photo Courtesy of the Emerson

Archaeological Photographic Archives, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Toronto).



Dr. James Anderson received his MD degree in 1953 under the supervision of anatomist Dr. J.C.B. Grant at the University of Toronto. In 1958, Anderson was appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology and was promoted to full professor in 1961. This position gave Anderson the distinction of becoming the first full-time physical anthropologist at a Canadian university. In 1963, he left Toronto and moved to the State University of New York at Buffalo. It was under the guidance of Dr. Anderson that Melbye's skills in human osteological analysis blossomed. Dr. Anderson became not only, Melbye's "academic father," but his mentor, confidant and close personal friend (Melbye, 1995c). Melbye received his M.A. degree in 1966, from SUNY at Buffalo with the thesis, "An Analysis of the Infracranial Material from the Orchid Site."

*Exhibit A: The Secrets of Forensic Science* (Melbye et al, 1999).

Melbye was instrumental in developing the forensic science program at the University of Toronto at Mississauga in the early 1990s. He has promoted an integrated program that has grown to include chemistry, biology, psychology, and anthropology. Melbye is co-ordinator of the only BSc Program in Forensic Science in Canada. This exposure has allowed forensic anthropology to gain a high profile in Canada that has, in turn, attracted many aspiring students to the University of Toronto. Melbye regularly lectures and presents papers in the field of forensic anthropology (Melbye, 1993b, 1995a, 1995b, 1996a, 1996b, 1996c, 1997, 1998; Melbye and Jiminez, 1993, 1994, 1997; Melbye et al. 1999). He continues to broaden his scope of forensic science and attends training seminars in various aspects of forensic investigation. Melbye has received numerous awards for his dedication to forensic anthropological work.

Figure 6. Melbye and students at University of Toronto at Mississauga, 2000.



During his career, Melbye regularly taught Introduction to Anthropology, Introduction to Physical Anthropology, Human Osteology, Paleopathology, Forensic Anthropology, and Forensic Science. He has offered 35 different undergraduate and graduate courses over his teaching career. Officially, Melbye has served on over 60 graduate committees, supervised 29 Master's students, and directed 14 successful Ph.D. graduates. His doctoral students compose the majority of human osteologists in Canada.

Name	Graduation Year	Current or Past Affiliation
Susan Pfeiffer	1976	University of Toronto
Shelley Saunders	1977	McMaster University
J. Eldon Molto	1980	Lakehead University
John Kolar	1982	University of Texas
David Patterson	1982	Private Sector
M. Anne Katzenberg	1983	University of Calgary
Elizabeth Salter	1984	University of Texas
Gary Heathcote	1985	University of Guam
Moheb Shaaban	1988	University of Cairo
Norman Sullivan	1989	University of Wisconsin
Christine White	1990	University of Western Ontario
Scott Fairgrieve	1993	Laurentian University

Kathy Gruspier	1998	Ontario Coroner's Office
Antoinette Cerroni	2000	University of Toronto

Table 1. Students who received their Ph.D. degrees under the supervision of Dr. Jerry Melbye at the University of Toronto, as of April 2001.

Melbye has served on the executive of the American Association of Physical Anthropology; as past president of the Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology; and, past chairman of the Anthropology, Medical, and Odontology section of the Canadian Society of Forensic Sciences.

He is currently professor of Physical Anthropology and Forensic Science; associate chair of Anthropology and Director of the Forensic Science Program at the University of Toronto at Mississauga; past secretary and current chair of the Physical Anthropology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences; chairman of the Forensic Anthropology Section of the International Association of Forensic Sciences; member of the advisory board of the Center of Forensic Sciences; and, member of the review panel for Investigations in former Yugoslavia for the United Nations. Melbye is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. In 1997, he became a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology, the highest credential for a practicing forensic anthropologist. It is noteworthy that Jerry Melbye is one of three Diplomates in Canada, and one of 60 in North America.

Dr. Melbye regularly provides guest lectures to other universities, high schools, grade schools, community organizations and police agencies. He has coached baseball for many years for kids in the town of Erin, Ontario. He is an adventurous and avid wilderness canoeist, fisherman, and amateur astronomer.

Figure 7. Melbye on the way to his cabin in Northern Ontario, Canada.



In closing, I would like to give you a few numbers about University of Toronto's much-loved professor: **23**, the number of years Melbye has occupied Room 208 in the North Building; **224**, the number of classes Melbye has taught during his academic career; **1000**, the number of students taught by Melbye in the 2001 spring semester; **46**, the number of years Melbye has sported a moustache and beard; And, **countless**, the number of people, both past and present, who have been inspired by the academic

career of Floyd Jerome Melbye.

**Academic Works of Dr. Jerry Melbye (in chronological order)**

Melbye J. 1963a .The Kane burial mounds. Southern Illinois University Museum Archaeological Salvage Report, No. 15.

Melbye J. 1963b.Early Woodland populations of southern Illinois. Paper presented to the Illinois Archaeological Survey.

Melbye J. 1964a.Middle Mississippian burial orientation. Paper presented to the Midwest Archaeological Association.

Melbye J. 1964b. A preliminary report of five Archaic sites on the Cache River, Illinois.Southern Illinois University Museum, Archaeological Salvage Report, No. 17.

Melbye J. 1964c. A preliminary report of the Bodine No.1 site. Southern Illinois University Museum, Archaeological Salvage Report, No. 18.

Brooks S, Melbye J.1967 Skeletal lesions suggestive of pre-Columbian multiple myeloma in a burial from the Kane Mounds near St. Louis, Missouri. Museum of Northern Arizona, Technical Series, No. 7.

Melbye J. 1968. Late Woodland burial mounds of Northern Wisconsin. Paper presented to the Midwest Archaeological Association.

Melbye J. 1969. An analysis of a Late Woodland Population in the Upper Great Lakes. Ph.D. Thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto.

Melbye J. 1970a. Late Woodland populations of the Upper Great Lakes. Paper presented to the Canadian Archaeological Association.

Melbye J. 1970b. The human skeleton from the Misty Lake site (BkGg-3). In Algonquin Park Archaeology, edited by Hurley and Kenyon. Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, Research Report, No. 3.

Melbye J. 1972a. Review of human skeletal morphology, by Rosie Tekiner. American Anthropologist 74:1533.

Melbye J. 1972b. A proposed data bank for human skeletons. Paper presented to the Canadian Archaeological Association.

Melbye J., Sigmon B. 1972. Notes on four skulls from the Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C. Paper presented to the Canadian Archaeological Association.

Melbye J. 1973a. A comparative review of *The Beginnings of Mankind: A Laboratory Notebook*, by Stanley Rhine; *Laboratory Methods in Physical Anthropology*, by Alan C. Swedlund and William D. Wade; and *Human Skeletal Morphology: A Laboratory Manual for Anthropology*, by Roselle Tekiner, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 39:489-492.

Melbye J. 1973b. Burial classification vs. archaeological inference. Paper presented to the Canadian Archaeological Association.

Melbye J. 1974a. Mortuary customs: trauma or cut marks? Paper presented to the Canadian Archaeological Association.

Melbye J. 1974b. The Kleinberg ossuary: a holistic approach. Paper presented to the Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology.

Melbye J. 1975a) Aspects of Paleopathology at the Kleinberg ossuary. Paper presented to the Canadian Archaeological Association.

Melbye J. 1975b) Trauma as an index of violence in prehistoric populations. *Annals of Human Biology* 2:308 (abstract).

Melbye J. 1976a. Ossossané: some preliminary notes after 30 years. Paper presented to the Canadian Archaeological Association.

Melbye J. 1977a. Paleodemography: some problems and some solutions. Paper presented to the Society for the Study of Human Biology.

Melbye J. 1977b. A human mandible in probable association with a pleistocene fauna in eastern Beringia. Paper presented to the Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology.

Melbye J. 1977c. Violence in Prehistoric Populations. Paper presented to the Paleopathology Association.

Irving WN, Mayhall JT, Melbye J, Beebe BF. 1977. A human mandible in probable association with a Pleistocene faunal assemblage in eastern Beringia: A Preliminary Report. *Canadian Journal of Archaeology* 1:81.

Melbye J. 1978. The excavation of human remains. Paper presented to the Ontario Archaeology Society.

Melbye J, Sullivan N. 1978 Subadult mortality at the Ossossané ossuary. Paper presented to the Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology.

Melbye J, Anderson JE. 1978 The Ontario Iroquois ossuary: a summary of 100 years of investigation. Paper presented to the Canadian Archaeological Association.

Melby J. 1979a. A history of the contributions of Physical Anthropology to Archaeology in Canada. Paper presented to the Canadian Archaeological Association.

Melby J. 1979b. The symbolisms of mortuary customs. Paper presented to the Ontario Archaeological Society.

Melby J., and M.A. Katzenberg 1980. Gravestone data from an Ontario cemetery: applications to Paleodemography. Paper presented to the Canadian Association for

Melby J. 1983b. The People of the Ball Site. *Ontario Archaeology* 40:15-36.

Melby J. 1983c. Human remains from a Roman period tomb in the Dakleh oasis, Egypt: a preliminary analysis. *The Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities* 13:193-201.

Melby J, Katzenberg MA. 1983. Gravestone data from an Ontario cemetery: applications to Paleodemography. Paper presented to the Ontario Historical Society.

Schwartz JH, Katzenberg MA, Knyf S, Melby J. 1983. Analysis of stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen in prehistoric Southern Ontario populations. Paper presented at the XIth International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences.

Melby J. 1984a. Biocultural interpretations of Paleopathology among the peoples of the Ontario Iroquois Tradition. Paper presented to the Canadian Archaeological Association.

Melby J. 1984b. Recent advances in biochemical analysis of human skeletons: the collection and preservation of samples. *Canadian Journal of Archaeology* 9:127-133.

Melby J. 1985a. Congenital defects among the prehistoric Ontario Iroquois. Paper presented

Melby J, Fairgrieve S. 1986b. Possible evidence of mutilation and cannibalism in an Early Contact site between Amerindian and Inuit. Paper presented to the Paleopathology Association.

Melby J, Jimenez S. 1987. Ossossané revisited. Paper presented to the Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology.

Melby J, Mullen G, McFadden K. 1987. The human osteology of the Gaetan site (AjGx-44). Research Report to the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Saunders S, Melby J. 1988. Subadult mortality and bone quality in the Kleinberg ossuary. Paper presented to the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

Melby J. 1990. A re-interpretation of trauma. Paper presented to the Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology.



Saunders S, Melbye J. 1990. Subadult mortality and skeletal indicators of health in Late Woodland Ontario Iroquois. *Canadian Journal of Archaeology* 14:61-74.

Melbye J. 1993a. The skeletal biology of the Dorset Paleo-Eskimo: a contribution to Northern Newfoundland. Paper presented to the Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology.

Melbye J. 1993b. Forensic Anthropology: the application of science to criminal investigation. Paper presented to Canadian Perspectives.

Melbye J, Jimenez S. 1993. The integration of the metal detector with standard archaeological recovery. Paper presented to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Melbye J, Meiklejohn C. 1993. The history of Physical Anthropology and the development of evolutionary thought in Canada. *Foundation for Different Approaches to the Study of Human Evolution: Prague*

Melbye J, and S. Fairgrieve S. 1994. A massacre and possible cannibalism in the Canadian Arctic: new evidence from the Saunaktuk site. *Arctic Anthropology* 31:55-77.

Melbye J, Jimenez S. 1994. The butcher of Gloucester Street. Paper presented at the Midwest Bioarchaeology Conference.

Melbye J. 1995a. The occult in Southern Ontario: a witch hunt? Paper presented to the Canadian Society of Forensic Sciences.

Melbye J. 1995b. Education and experience in Forensic Anthropology: what is needed?

Melbye J. 1996c. Forensic Anthropology, is it really Anthropology? Paper presented to the Canadian Association for Physical Anthropologists.

Melbye J. 1997. Death on the Danforth. Paper presented to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Melbye J, Jimenez S. 1997. Chain of custody from the field to the courtroom. In *Forensic taphonomy: the post-mortem fate of human remains*, edited by W.D. Haglund and M.H. Sorg. CRC Press. pp.65-75.

Melbye J. 1998. Forensic science: a new academic discipline. Paper presented at Canadian Perspectives.

Melbye J, Chiasson D, Wood, Blenkinsop B. 1999) Death on the Danforth. In *Forensic osteological analysis: a book of case studies*, edited by S. I. Fairgrieve, C.C. Thomas. pp.89-106.

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Version, November 19, 1998.

Melbye’s Homepage (March 16, 2001)

<http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/acade/oc/FSC/melbye.htm>

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