

JVP

Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology
Program and Abstracts

Volume 28, Supplement to Number 3
September 2008



68th Annual Meeting Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Case Western Reserve University
Renaissance Cleveland Hotel
Cleveland, Ohio USA
October 15-18, 2008

2008 SVP abstract, 68th Annual Meeting:

DELICATE FOSSIL SKULLS FROM A RICH HOLOCENE SITE: WHICH TECHNIQUES WORKED BEST FOR PREPARATION, DISPLAY, AND TRANSPORTATION

FITZGERALD, Erin, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

Fossil vertebrates, including humans, recovered at a Holocene site in the Sahara were extremely fragile and preserved in a loose sandy matrix. Due to the quantity of specimens excavated, and the range of preservation, a variety of techniques were used. During preparation, most skulls required special attention so as not to lose associations; others required extensive reconstruction. Some skulls required the development of a new technique that would allow researchers the option of opening the cranial vault for access to the interior of the specimen. The pieces were mounted individually, on plaster cradles, which contribute to the practice of conservation by limiting the use of glues. After preparation, the best preserved skulls were fitted to custom mounts, which assisted photography and research as well as readying the specimens for display. After their completion, skulls and any associated bones and holders were placed in custom fitted foam-lined cases for safe storage, easy access, and transportation. These skulls have been safely transported for CT scanning and presentations, and will be ready for transport back to Niger, their country of origin.