A000-Eur-Czech Republic-Moravia-Venus of Dolní Věstonice-29,000–25,000 BP



Case no. 1

**Formal Label:** Venus of Dolní Věstonice, Moravia, Czech Republic, 29,000–25,000 BP  
**Accession Number:**

**LC Classification:** GN772.2.A8

**Date or Time Horizon:** 29,000–25,000 BP

**Geographical Area:** Moravia, Czech Republic   
**Cultural Affiliation:** Gravettian industry

**Medium:** fired clay at low temperature, 1300 F, or 700 C.  
**Dimensions:**  H 11.1 cm, 4.4 in: W 4.3 cm,1.7 in.

**Weight:**

**Condition: Museum Reproduction in resin; original** broken into two pieces**.**

**Provenance:** The figurine was discovered on 13 July 1925 in a layer of ash. original is in the Anthropos Museum, Brno, Czech Republic. In 2004 a tomograph scan found a fingerprint of a young person estimated at between 7 and 15 years of age (based on the size of the fingerprint) fired into its surface. The grave of a young woman, perhaps the creator of the figurine, had been discovered in 1949.

**Discussion:** The figurine has four holes in the top of the head, perhaps to hold something, possibly herbs, flowers or headgear. Powers (1994) in doing experimental archaeology found that the clay of this figurine was a yellow clay mixed with burnt and powdered mammoth bone. The use of mammoth bone was used as a fusing agent being comprised of calcium and phosphorus (Velde and Druc 2012).  In addition to the Venus figurine found at Dolní Věstonice, many other figurines have been found, including figurines of Pleistocene animals – cave bear, saber-toothed tiger, mammoth, horse, fox, rhinoceros and owl – and more than 2,000 balls of burnt clay, probably used in boiling liquids.

**References:**

Jelinek, J. 1975. *The Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Evolution of Man*. London: Hamlyn

Powers, R. 1994. "The Human Form in Palaeolithic Art," *Modern Geology*, 19(2-4), Switzerland: Gordon and Breach.

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### Svoboda, Jiri and Ofer Bar-Yosef. 2003. Stránská skála : origins of the Upper Paleolithic in the Brno Basin, Moravia, Czech Republic. Cambridge, MA: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

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