Marie Eugène François Thomas Dubois Encyclopedia Article

Marie Eugène François Thomas Dubois

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Contents

Marie Eugène François Thomas Dubois Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Marie Eugène François Thomas Dubois.....3

Marie Eugène François Thomas Dubois

1858-1940

Dutch anatomist and paleoanthropologist who discovered the first fossils belonging to a direct ancestor of modern humans. Dubois was seeking Darwin's "missing link" on the island of Java, hence "Java man," the common name of his find. Dubois named his discovery *Pithecanthropus erectus*, which was later reclassified as *Homo erectus*. Dubois's work reflected two contemporary theories, that upright posture was of primary importance in human evolution and that the East Indies, not Africa, was the site of humankind's origins.