

magnificently beautiful cave paintings in France and Spain (see figure 11.5). These paintings are not simple representations. They are masterpieces of dynamic form and color. Cro-Magnon man painted vivid life-like pictures of cattle, bison, rhinoceros, horses, and mammoths. These were the animals he hunted on the fringes of the ice as it advanced and retreated.

Significantly lacking in Cro-Magnon art are human forms. The few representations of the human form that do occur are conspicuous by the lack of rich and dynamic detail afforded the animals. Richard Leakey comments: "Nowhere is there a portrait of a human face equivalent in detail to one of the giant bulls at Lascaux. It is almost as if there was a taboo against the representation of the human form."<sup>4</sup>

In a few caves Cro-Magnon man left an important and evocative symbol of his presence: the imprint of his hand. These imprints, together with abstract designs and symbols, imply that Cro-Magnon possessed an awareness of being and creative communication. His animal art was magnificent. There is even evidence of some sort of religious sanctuary and of rituals being performed. Why his few representations of human forms were so scant and impoverished is an interesting problem for students of human development.

***The Cro-Magnon Mystery.*** Where did Cro-Magnon man come from and what happened to the Neanderthal man? This is an unresolved problem in paleoanthropology, the study of ancient man. There is no general consensus on the subject. Neanderthal man as represented by his classic form simply disappeared 40,000 years ago

FIGURE 11.5.

The famous color paintings from caves in France and Spain indicate the artistic ability of Cro-Magnon man.

