Films: *Iceman*  
for: *The Art of Ireland*  
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**Factsheet**
"Iceman" found by couple hiking in Alps in 1992; preserved within glacier ice in Italian Alps;  
- with ax with blade and flint knife, marble bead, and small leather pouch;  
- flesh was brown and leathery;  
- body preliminarily dated to Early Bronze Age of ca. 2000 BCE  
- Early Bronze Age of farmers/herders;

Dispute over ownership: Austria vs. Italy; "Iceman" was in Italy by 300' (within border posts).

Question about how he remained there:  
- glaciers, like rivers, flow; Iceman found at top;  
- why hadn't "Iceman" flowed down with the ice?  
- body had been found protected in rock depression, between two ridges; ice there was as thick as 100 to 200';  
- more artifacts found subsequent to body: short cape (with human hairs), bow and arrows;  
- Iceman died of hypothermia, due to cold; snow shielded body from predators.

**Portrait of Iceman:**  
- 5' 2" tall; 25 to 35 years old; 110 lbs.; wore grass cape; size 6 leather boots with twine inside as sox; finely stitched leather clothing.

**Objects found:**  
- carried tassel of string (inserted through polished marble beads)  
- 12 1/2 made arrows in leather quiver; 2 flint-tipped arrows ready for shouting;  
- wooden bow was unfinished; fire-striker" or flint knife; metal ax;  
- birch berries; container with charcoal lumps (for lighting fires); woven grass bag; wood pack frame;  
- 2 dried mushrooms on leather strap (medicinal quality with antibiotic or curative properties ?);
Botanical Finds: sloeberry (Iceman must have died in autumn when sloebberries ripen)  
  grass wrapped around shoes to protect him from cold; wheat found on clothes  
  wood of implements:       
  viburnum and dogwood for arrows;  ax handle and bow of yew  
  ash for knife handle       
  hazel for backpack

Conservation of Iceman and his Artifacts:  
-strengthen wooden items; soften leather; reconstruct clothing to determine the cut of clothes;  

Carbon 14 dating (approximate death of objects measured by rate of decay)  
-protein taken from his bones to test  
-two- to three-week process

Bronze is alloy of copper, hardened with small amounts of tin.  
-appeared in Europe 4,500 years ago  
-question: was body contemporary to ax  
-ax, once examined, was determined to be made of copper and to be over 5000 years old

Body, then, determined to be from ca. 3300 BCE - Neolithic Period (when first copper appeared,  
  often as axheads).  
-Tattoos on Iceman: made with charcoal; marks on knees, on back (groups of lines); must have  
  been made by someone other than himself; ritual meaning? clan status?  
-no wisdom teeth; wear on teeth suggest diet of coarse, ground grain.

Neolithic Settlements:  
-Iceman from between Milan and Venice, north of W. Switzerland, No. Austria, and So. Germany,  
  where there were many Neolithic settlements;  
-all of these Neolithic cultures were built on shores of lakes;  
-e.g. excavations at Hornstat Hornle, Stone Age settlement: lake settlement with reconstructed dwelling places, built on piles; walls of mud plaster and lath; roofs of bark; 30 - 4- persons clustered on one site at lake shore; hunters and fishermen;
- growing of crops: grain found within layers of clothing; people used copper;
- flint traded widely by Stone Age travelers
- so. of Alps in No. Italy near Monte Lessini, hills are rich in flint
- Stone Age flint mine excavated in No. Italy; flint is found only in marginal areas of Alps in limestone deposits;
- Iceman's flint probably comes from Monte Lessini

Recently, Neolithic sites uncovered 15 miles from where Iceman died
- near Castel Uval, controls entrance to valley near glacier pass
- Iceman may have been coming from or going to Castel Uval
- People at Castel Uval were farmers
- Iceman: a hunter, trader, explorer?

Excavations, August, 1992: more extensively undertaken; found 400 more items:
- piece of Iceman's shoe sole;
- grass, grain, fruit
- human hair
- more wooden artifacts (part of bow?), remains of fur hat--oldest ever found in Europe

Iceman will be put on display at Bolzano National Archaeological Museum.

Iceman--A Profile:
Lived in lake settlement, north of Alps; member of farming community, working land with stone, wood, and copper implements; would have herded some animals, hunted, and fished.
Perhaps one spring day, he set out on trade missions to south to exchange pottery etc for flint; he began long journey home with approach of winter; he lost way? the weather changed? Hypothermia...