Thursday, September 19, 1991 – 1.30 p.m. Tisenjoch - 3210 m above sea level Ötztal Alps (South Tyrol, Italy); Otzi was found by two mountain hikers; Erika and Helmut at the end of their hiking trip when they ventured from the usual track.

One of the two managed to capture an image of the corpse on his camera, it depicts the shoulders and back of the head was visible, while the rest of it was covered in ice and snow.

Originally the archaeologists and excavators just thought it was a modern day hiker who had died in the mountains, so the corpse was excavated with no great care and shoved in a casket; during this transition the corpse was unfortunately damaged with broken ribs and such.

After close observation by scientists and professional archaeologists it became clear the body was much older, 5300 years old early bronze age to be exact.

Because the body was so well preserved this became the discovery of the century as this finding would tell them thousands of things about early human life and what it was like back then.

With the body was found rolled up remnants of birch bark, a pen knife and clothing fibres. This suggests that he had been a hunter in the mountains; he would have owned a pen knife; an axe; bow and arrows and clothing etc.

Another realization was that Otzi`s shoulder would have been most likely shot with an arrow raising the idea that maybe he had been murdered rather than have fallen ill or wounded by pure accident.

Otzi was found in a gully, this explains why he had not been swept down with the glaciers on either side of him, as the gully provided enough support so as the body would not be moved by the ice and snow.

After the find when it was transferred to Austria instead of Italy (as it had lain on the very border) it was confirmed that the body was in fact Italian not Austrian.

Today a four-meter-high stone pyramid marks the spot where the glacier mummy was discovered.

Scientists are still pondering over the question of why the body was still intact though it would have probably been covered in ice for most of the years it had been on the mountain so the ice would have preserved the body dramatically.

The body had been dated by the C-14 scan (radiocarbon dating) which had provided evident information that it was 5300 years old (3300BC).

Many reconstructions of what Otzi`s face would have looked like have been created the newest being the most accurate.

The tissue of every organism absorbs the C14 isotope from the atmosphere. When the organism dies, the flow of C14 is interrupted and any C14 absorbed during its life gradually disappears – half of it every 5730 years (the half-life of the isotope). The amount of remaining C14 can be measured using a mass spectrometer, and from this it is possible to calculate how long ago the organism lived.

Never before had an archaeological find caused such a media sensation.

Some people involved in the recovery of the mummy and the scientific investigation of the Iceman have died in recent years as a result of accidents or disease.