

11th MEETING OF THE GERMAN  
SOCIETY FOR ANTHROPOLOGY AND HUMAN  
GENETICS IN MAINZ

11. Tagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft  
für Anthropologie und Humangenetik

At the beginning of October 1969 the 11th Meeting of the German Society for Anthropology and Human Genetics took place in Mainz, to which many guests from abroad had also been invited. The Conference was opened on Sunday, October 5th in the evening with a public lecture delivered by G. Heberer (Göttingen) titled „Die Bedeutung neuerer Fossilfunde für die Stammesgeschichte des Menschen“. The Conference reports were interesting already as regards the organisational aspect. All three mornings were given over to joint sessions, while the afternoons were reserved for anthropologists separately from the geneticists. Each session had a beforehand appointed moderator, who did not only formally presided over, but also directed the reports of his section already in the time of preparation. The moderator thus could decide on the selection of the papers, on their length, on the succession of the speakers and in the course of the session he could still leave out some papers and give others more time in the discussion.

The joint sessions were devoted to the evolutionary mechanisms (moderator: H. Walter, Mainz), primatology — Primatenforschung als Teil der Stammesgeschichte des Menschen (moderators: J. Biegert, Zürich; Ch. Vogel, Kiel, and I. Eibl-Eibesfeldt, Seewiesen) and, finally, to research in Africa (moderators: I. Schwidetzky, Mainz; H. W. Goedde, Hamburg; and E.C. Büchi, Berlin). In the anthropological sessions the following main themes were discussed: Paleopathology and paleodemography (moderator: U. Schaefer, Giessen), social anthropology (H. W. Jürgen, Kiel), constitution and growth (H. Preuschoft, Tübingen), and problems of ethnogenesis (moderator: G. Ziegelmayer, München). In the genetical section the main themes discussed were: Genetics of metabolic diseases (H. Bickel, Heidelberg) experimental cytogenetics (H. G. Schwarzscher, Giessen), and mutagenesis in mammals and man (moderator: F. Vogel, Heidelberg).

There would be little sense in enumerating all the papers, but let us mention in greater detail the participation of Czechoslovak anthropologists in this important meeting. The Conference was attended by a total of 8 representatives from Czechoslovakia, forming the most numerous delegation in general. Its members were: M. Dokládál, K. Hajniš, J. Chochol, M. Stloukal, M. Stloukalová, J. Švejcar, J.A. Valšík, and L. Vyhnánek. Their contributions to the scientific programme of the Conference were as follows:

- M. Dokládál: Alterswandel der symphysialen Fläche des Os pubis bei den Anthropoiden.
- K. Hajniš: Das Wachstum von Nase, Oberlippe und Mundspalte bei deutschen Kindern und Jugendlichen und ihre Anwendung für die Operation der Spaltmissbildungen des Cavum oris.
- J. Chochol: Anthropologische Eigenschaften der böhmischen Baalberger Gruppe (Trichterbecherkultur).
- M. Stloukal and L. Vyhnánek: Spondylosehäufigkeit bei mittelalterlichen Populationen.
- J. Švejcar: Biochemische Untersuchungen zur Frühentwicklung des Skelettsystems.

For the Czechoslovak delegation it was an extraordinary event that immediately at the opening of the anthropological session its members were given a Neandertal jaw from the Svědův stůl Cave near Ochoz. The find, which for several tens of years had been deposited in various German museums and scientific institutes, has thus, as a gift of West German anthropologists, returned to Moravia and enriched the collections of the Anthropos Institute of the Moravian Museum in Brno.

It is perhaps unnecessary to point out the high level of the Conference in both expert and organisational respect. This certainly goes mainly to the credit of the president of the Conference, Prof. I. Schwidetzky of Mainz and the staff of her co-workers. On the initiative of V. Correnti (Rome), O. Necrasov (Bucharest), and I. Schwidetzky (Mainz) a meeting of European anthropologists took place. The reached conclusions were: First of all, international anthropological archive, where on punched cards data on the entire historico-anthropological material from Europe will gradually be collected, are going to be built step by step in Mainz. For these data to be freed as much as possible from individual errors, a symposium will meet still in 1970 where the anthropologists working in this sector will try to unify the views on determining the sex and the age of skeletons and on the classification of metric characters and to create the principles that might then be generally applied. If cooperation in this first sector proves successful, a large field of further possibilities will then naturally open up. As to organisational respect this would mean at least a certain coordination of European anthropological conferences.

M. Stloukal

ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONGRESS ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE 100th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATING THE  
BIRTHDAY OF ALEŠ HRDLIČKA (10th CONFERENCE  
OF CZECHOSLOVAK ANTHROPOLOGISTS)

In 1969 one hundred years have elapsed since the birth of Aleš Hrdlička, a native of Humpolec in Bohemia, who, already when a boy, left with his parents the native country and emigrated to the United States of America, where he then became not only the founder of American physical anthropology, but also one of the most conspicuous persons of this branch of science in the world. Hrdlička's native town Humpolec organized in this jubilee year great celebrations, culminating in the co-arrangement of an anthropological congress. The actual organisation of this meeting was the concern of the Czechoslovak Anthropological Society, of the Organizing Committee headed by Dr. J. Suchý, Ass. Prof., with Dr. V. V. Novotný, Ass. Prof. as the secretary.

The Congress was opened on August 30th, 1969 in the National Museum of Prague, but on the very same day all participants went by motorcoach to Humpolec where, on the following day, Sunday 31st August, two events took place: the unveiling of the Hrdlička monument and the opening of a permanent Hrdlička exhibition in the local museum. The scientific programme of the Congress began on Monday, September 1st, and lasted for three days. The last day was wound up with a joint gala dinner, followed on September 4th by a whole day excursion. As to the programme, it is difficult to deal with each of the almost one hundred papers that were presented and, therefore, we restrict ourselves to their enumeration.

1. Hrdlička Themes:

- T.D. Stewart (Washington) — Use of the Hrdlička Collection in a Museum Presentation of the Biology of Man.
- E. Vlček (Praha) — Uplatnění Hrdličkovy teorie o asijském původu Indiánů v současné populaci Mongolska (The Application of Hrdlička's Theory of the Asiatic Origin of Indians in the Present Population of Mongolia).
- A. Macek (Mikulov) — Aleš Hrdlička in South Moravia (personal remembrances).
- K. Daněk (Nové Město na Moravě) — Anthropologické argumenty ve vývoji nauky o civilizačních nemocech