

NOBEL SYMPOSIUM „ARGUMENTS ON EARLY MAN“

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has organized the Nobel Symposium "Current Arguments on Early Man" which took place in Bofors, Sweden, from 21–27th May 1978.

The 17 invited scientists gave following lectures:

- Richard E. F. Leakey, National Museums of Kenya, Kenya: "How many species of Hominids at Lake Turkana";
- Donald C. Johanson, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, USA: "Early hominids from Hadar, Ethiopia: Clues to the origin of the genus Homo";
- Philip Rightmire, State University of New York at Binghamton, USA: "The bearing of East African Homo erectus fossils in human evolution in the African Middle Pleistocene";
- Philip Tobias, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa: "A Survey and synthesis of the African hominids of the Late Tertiary and Early Quaternary periods";
- Mary Leakey, Olduvai Gorge Research Project, Kenya: "Early hominids: Environment and tools";
- Jan Jelínek, Anthropos, Moravské muzeum, Czechoslovakia: "European Homo erectus and the Origin of Homo sapiens";
- Björn Kurtén, University of Helsingfors, Finland: "Pleistocene mammalian faunas in Holartic region";
- Marie-Antoinette de Lumley, Université de Provence, France: "Le premier peuplement de l'Europe";
- Henry de Lumley, Université de Provence, France: "Les premières civilisations humaines dans le Sud-Est de l'Europe";
- Vselovod Yakimov, Institute and museum of Anthropology, USSR: "New discoveries of ancient man in USSR";
- Teucu Jacob, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia: "Pithecanthropus: The Phenotype genetics and ecology";
- Woo Ju-kang, Academia Sinica, Peoples Republic of China: "Palaeoanthropology of New China";
- Yves Coppens, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, France: "The limits between Australopithecus and Homo";
- Glyn Issac, University of California, USA: "Casting the net wide — a review of archaeological evidence for early proto-human land-use and ecological relations";
- Georg Todaro, National Cancer Institute, USA: "Evidence using viral gene sequences suggesting Asian origin of man";
- David Pilbeam, Yale University, USA: "Major trends in human evolution";
- Philip Tobias, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa: "From Linné to Leakey".

The discussions centered round two focusses. The new east African finds and the Origin of Homo. Here the Ethiopian finds of the oldest Australopithecus were recognized as a new species Australopithecus afarensis. Most of the participants accepted this new species as ancestral to later Australopithecus and Homo. The other focus was in the later formation of Homo sapiens and his relationship to Homo erectus finds. Even when the opinions is not united, the ancestral position of Homo erectus is more and more supported. Professors Ju-Kang Woo and Vselovod Jakimov presented new finds from their countries and Georg Todaro lectured on new discoveries of the viral genes importance for the study of human origins. This new method shows in a very clear way that Homo sapiens originated in Euroasia or in near East, in the regions where the fossil baboons were not present. Oposite to prevailing contemporary idea of African Origin of Man Georg Todaro propose that contemporary man could not originate in Africa. Jan Jelínek joins the European ante-neanderthal hominid finds into one species considering their difference from Homo sapiens sapiens on the subspecific level only. Richard Leakey pre-

sents three distinct groups of hominid plio-pleistocene finds from East Turkana in Africa corresponding broadly to Australopithecus boisei, Homo and Australopithecus africanus. However the views in this point were not united. Professor Tobias considers two taxa present only, namely robust Australopithecus and Homo.

An important event was the visit of H. M. King and Queen of Sweden. At this occasion Mrs. Mary Leakey obtained the C. Linnaeus golden medal from the kings' hands.

Well organized Symposium brought together specialists from very geographically distant areas. The results will be published by the Pergamon Press.

J. J.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTION OF SYMPOSIUM ON METHODS OF FUNCTIONAL ANTHROPOLOGY

The first Symposium with international participation mainly on the topic of anthropology of physical education but also of anthropology of ergonomy, took place in the House of Medicine in Prague from 5.—8. 9. 1977. The organiser of the Symposium entitled "Methods of functional anthropology" was the Czechoslovak Anthropological Society of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. It was organized in cooperation with Faculty of Science and Medical Faculty, Charles University in Prague, the Czechoslovak Society of Sports Medicine, and the Medical Council of the Czechoslovak Association of Physical Culture. The actual importance of the theme was manifested by the suggestion of the International Research Committee of ICSPE, consult body at UNESCO to take part in the Symposium by taking over the sponsorship.

Opening the Symposium dr. J. Jelínek, president of the Czechoslovak Anthropological Society of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences greeted the participants and stressed in his address that functional anthropology is an important and perspective trend in modern anthropology and that it needs even in the future a higher attention. Further addresses were presented by ing. Štourač, president of the Comm. for Scient. Societies of Presidium of Czechosl. Acad. of Sc. on behalf of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, doc. F. Cech, dean of the Science Faculty, on behalf of his Faculty, prof. M. Máček on behalf of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Association of Physical Culture, prof. S. Čelikovský on behalf of the Scientific Council of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Association of Physical Culture and doc. J. Horák on behalf of the Czechoslovak Society of Sports Medicine.

The scientific program of the Symposium was aimed exclusively at methods of work in functional anthropology. In each of two thematic groups were presented, within the given sphere, two main reports summing up from different points of view and critically evaluating methods used until the present time. The main reports were followed by short methodical contributions presenting new methods, suggestions or comparison of different work procedures. In the following panel discussion the advantages and drawbacks of individual methods were discussed. Finally certain methodical procedures to be generally used in practice were recommended.

The opening lecture "Functional Anthropology and its Problems" (V. Novotný) outlined the aim of the Symposium and tasks and perspectives of anthropology of physical education and kinetics. It stressed that anthropology of physical education is not only anthropology of sports which