

THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN ANTHROPOLOGISTS AND THE THIRD SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

The Section for Biological Anthropology of the Medical Association of Croatia and the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health in Zagreb organized the 3rd School of Biological Anthropology on 31 August 1977 and the subsequent 1st Congress of the European Anthropologists taking place on 1–3 September 1977. Both events were realized in the session-hall of the Medical House in Zagreb and all the papers and the contributions to the discussion were simultaneously interpreted into five languages.

The programme of the 3rd School of Biological Anthropology comprised only three papers (plus the opening address by G. Olivier): D. F. Roberts (Newcastle upon Tyne) "Ecology, Demography and Genetics"; R. Knussmann (Hamburg), "Constitution, Heredity and Environment"; and N. Wolański (Warsaw), "Secular Trend in Man: Evidence and Factors". I do not think the name "School" was quite suitable for the event; it was more likely a seminar in which the extensive opening paper was discussed by the other participants. The author of the paper did not act as a teacher, he was an equal partner of the others and he was sometimes rather tormented by the critical remarks and comments of the others.

The 1st Congress of the European Anthropologists dealt with three basic topics: "Anthropology as a natural science", "Biological aspects of population migrations in Europe over the last generations", and the "Application of anthropology to human activities". Altogether 50 papers dealing with these basic topics had been read, 40 had different orientation and two afternoon-sessions were reserved for them. An introductory paper had been invited for each of the three basic topics — these papers were published in the newly founded periodical *Collegium Anthropologicum*, whose first issue was distributed among the attendants of the congress. It contains the following papers:

- G. Olivier (Paris), Biological anthropology and morphological anthropology;
- A. Schwidetzky (Mainz), Anthropology as a natural science;
- B. Nikityuk (Moscow), Anthropology as a natural science;
- P. Rudan, H. Maver, P. Vlahović (Zagreb, Belgrade), Biological anthropology — problems and prospects;
- B. Chiarelli (Torino), Why a course in anthropology;
- J. Hiernaux (Paris), Methodology of the study of migrants;
- N. Wolański (Warsaw), Selective migration: mating distance and outcrossing;
- Ch. Susanne (Brussels), Review of comparative studies of migrant height and weight;

H. Maver (Zagreb), Application of anthropology to human activities;

J. Pařízková (Prague), Nutrition and physical activity;

N. Wolański (Warsaw), Ergonomics and human ecology;

M. Masali (Turin): Applied anthropometry in ergonomics.

I have enumerated the above authors and their papers so as to show the orientation of the congress and to inform our readers about the representation of various countries. I would like to emphasize that the Zagreb congress was really a venue of the foremost European anthropologists and the event had a very high scientific standard. The reading of the papers and the following discussion were simultaneously interpreted.

At the occasion of the Zagreb Congress of the European Anthropologists took place also the foundation session of the new Association of the European Anthropologists. The lively discussion at the session tackled some of the organizational matters and it dealt also with the very objectives of the Association. The Executive Committee of the Association, elected at the session, will consist of the following members: G. Olivier (Chairman), J. Huizinga, H. Maver, D. F. Roberts and N. Wolański (Deputy Chairmen), B. Chiarelli (Secretary General) and Ch. Susanne (Controller), the wider Committee includes two representatives from each country. The first task of the Committee is to secure the activities of the Association both organizationally and economically, but the research programmes have also been set. Besides the three basic topics of the Zagreb Conference research will be focused also on palaeodemography and on non-metric characters. A three-men team has been (or will be) set up for each of these tasks in order to work out the programme of international cooperation so that the first results could be presented at the next congress due in two years from now. The date of the next congress has already been determined, but the place will be chosen additionally. In principle the congress should be limited to discussing five topics only, but the disadvantage would be that such congresses could be attended by a relatively small number of people only. It has been suggested therefore to join the next European Congress with the national anthropological congress of one of the member countries. Such a solution would attract a large number of anthropologists who could deal with free topics at the national conference and they could attend also the European Congress, at least in the role of audience.

The First Congress of the European Anthropologists was without doubt a scientific and organizational success. Let us hope that it was the opening of a new series of congresses that will be characterized by high-standard creative scientific cooperation.

Milan Stloukal