

The 2nd Anthropological Congress of Dr. A. Hrdlička was held in Humpolec between September 3-7, 1979. The event was highlighted by two facts: it was already the second anthropological congress to be held in Humpolec, the birthplace of Dr. A. Hrdlička, coinciding with the 110th anniversary of the birthday of this famous anthropologist of Czech origin, and at the same time it was the 115th national meeting of the Czechoslovak anthropologist. Already five years have elapsed since the last congress of this kind in Brno, and perhaps this fact also contributed to the fact that the congress aroused extraordinary attention among foreign researchers. The agenda of the congress comprised 176 papers, in fact the event was attended by 173 anthropologists.

Most participants of the congress came from Czechoslovakia, but some of the neighboring nations were represented by large delegations — Poland by 14, the German Democratic Republic 7, the Soviet Union 6, Federal Republic of Germany, U.S.A. and Yugoslavia by 5 each, three delegates came each from Belgium, Hungary, Netherlands, Rumania and Spain. The congress was attended also by guests from Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Egypt, France, India, Italy and Switzerland.

Shortly, it was a large session, we are not able to mention all the papers delivered during the congress. The main session took place in the central hall, with simultaneous interpretation. Here the papers were divided into the following topical groups:

Papers dealing with Dr. A. Hrdlička, general anthropology, ontogenesis of man, functional anthropology, anthropology of adults, medical anthropology, ethnic anthropology, palaeoanthropology, historic anthropology and osteology — varia. The section of the human ontogenesis dedicated a half-day session to the International Day of the Child. The adjoining smaller rooms housed four scientific sessions, one on palaeopathology, the other on human evolution, the third on the anthropology of sportsmen and the fourth on dermatoglyphics, the proceedings of these sessions were not interpreted, the respective sessions were held in English, French or German.

The main organizer of the congress was the Prague branch of the Czechoslovak Anthropological Society of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. The congress was sponsored by the Ministry of Education of the Czech Socialist Republic, the Faculties of Natural Sciences and of General Medicine of the Charles University and the Municipal Council of the town of Humpolec. It was not a formal sponsorship, all the above institutions had greatly contributed to the success of the event inaugurated in the Pantheon of the National Museum in Prague and housed by the building of the secondary school in Humpolec. The host town had to solve a number of extraordinary problems connected with the accommodation, transport of and catering for an unexpectedly high number of participants. At the occasion of the congress Czechoslovak and foreign anthropologists received Hrdlička's Memorial Medal and young anthropologists were awarded the Prize of Dr. A. Hrdlička for the best works in the branch.

A rich social programme formed integral part of the congress. It culminated with a final reception combined with sitting around a huge campfire. After the congress there was a one-day trip for the participants to the Museum of Book in Zďár nad Sázavou, to Pernštejn Castle and to the new exhibitions of the Anthropos Pavilion in Brno.

The congress was well organized and had a very good scientific standard indeed. Each participant received gifts of the host town — a graphic paper of Humpolec and a cup with the emblem of the congress.

The participants left with very positive impressions and with a host of new ideas for their further scientific activities. These impressions will be underlined also by the proceedings of the congress to be published in 1981.

Milan Stloukal

This meeting of Czechoslovak and G.D.R. specialists on human evolution was prepared by the Department of the Evolutionary Biology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in co-operation with the "Anthropogenesis" working group of the Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic (Arbeitskreis für die Probleme der Menschenwerdung), headed by Dr. H. Ullrich from the Archaeological Institute of the German Academy of Sciences. The meeting took place at the Recreation Centre of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Jáchymov. Twenty-one participants delivered 19 papers dealing with various problems of the evolution of man and of the human society. Six papers were read by German specialists, seven by the members of the Department of Evolutionary Biology and the rest by other participants of the event.

The programme was divided into three sections:

1. General rules of the evolution of man and of human society from the biological and social point of view.
2. Methodology of the evolutionary biology.
3. Hominid variability and systematics.

There were three opening papers, one by the corresponding member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences V. Novák on Relationship between Natural Selection and Sociogenesis in Human Evolution, the other by Academician Professor Herrmann, Director of the Archaeological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the G.D.R. on Tool Production as Factor and Result of the Human Evolution, and the third by Dr. Jelínek, Head of the Anthropos Institute on Mladeč Human Remains and Homo sapiens sapiens.

The principal topics, of the symposium and of the following discussion were: Participation of the neoteny in the development of the principal characters of Homo sapiens. The evolution of human locomotion and bipedal walking. Human reproduction and its morphophysiological grounds. Evolution and material culture (tool production, technology, etc.) and some philosophical aspects of its impact on the evolution of the human society. The profound discussions have contributed to the success of the meeting. It has been decided to organize similar meetings again in the German Democratic Republic and in Czechoslovakia alternately.

V. Novák

Colloque „LES PROCESSUS DE L'HOMINISATION. L'évolution humaine. Les faits. Les modalités.“ Paris, 16-20 juin 1980.

Le C.N.R.S. (Prof. D. Ferembach), a organisé à Paris, du 16 au 20 juin, en commémoration de la mort de Paul Broca, un colloque international sous le titre „Les processus de l'homínisation. L'évolution humaine. Les faits. Les modalités“. Le colloque a été ouvert par le Prof. L. Thibault, Président du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. Le matin du 16 juin fut voué à la mémoire et à l'appréciation du travail scientifique de Paul Broca.

Le colloque a été consacré à 5 thèmes principaux.

Thème 1. *Origine du genre HOMO*

- E. L. Simons: Origine du genre Homo à partir d'Australopithecus, de Ramapithecus ou d'une forme encore inconnue.
- L. de Bonis: Les Primates hominoïdes du Miocène et le problème du Ramapithecus.
- Y. Coppens: L'origine du genre Homo.
- B. Kurtén: The "Gestalt" of hominid evolution.

Thème 2. *Les stades évolutifs du genre Homo et l'apparition de Homo sapiens sapiens*

- W. W. Howells: Current theories on the origin of Homo sapiens sapiens.
- H. de Lumley: Les civilisations paléolithiques et leur continuité.
- J. K. Woo: Chinese paleoanthropology.
- J. Jelínek: Homo erectus est-il déjà Homo sapiens?