

SECOND EUROPEAN MEETING OF THE PALEOPATHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION IN TURIN (ITALY)

Altogether 63 researchers in paleopathology representing 12 countries (including a representative of the U.S., Canada and Turkey) assembled in Turin (Italy) for the 2nd European Meeting of the Paleopathological Association from 20th to 22nd October 1978. As the President of the Meeting was appointed Professor A. Ascenzi (Rome) in cooperation with Professor J. Dastugue (Caën) and with Professor A. Sandison (Glasgow). As scientific secretaries acted E. Rabino Massa (Turin) and R. Perrot (Lyon). The perfect hospitality of professor A. B. Chiarelli (Turin) contributed widely to the success of the meeting.

Communications which can be quoted for their big number only in selection, have been arranged into 5 main topics. First of them, "Studies in Egyptian Mummy Paleopathology", which largely revived during the past decade especially in the U.S. and Canada (*P. Lewin*, Toronto), were enriched by a large radiographic study of mummies from Czechoslovak collections (*L. Vyhnanek and E. Strouhal*, Prague) and by the use of the most recent method of computer tomography, which can yield even highly enlarged thin sections (*W. Pahl*, Tübingen). New cases of malign tumours were found in the Egyptian osteological collection of G. Marro housed in the Museum of Anthropology in Turin (*A. Sicuro et al.*, Turin).

The section on "General Trends in Skeletal Paleopathology" was introduced by an important theoretical study showing the possibilities, limits and future prospects of the paleopathology of human skeleton (*J. Dastugue*, Caën).

A series of communications concerned "Cranial and Tooth Paleopathology", among which the question of the polycariosity of the teeth of the Broken Hill man was reexamined (*P. R. Puech*, Marseille). New method of scoring defects of the processus alveolaris was proposed (*D. Muller and W. R. K. Perizonius*, Utrecht). New prospects have been opened by the detailed study of the diseases of the ear region (*M. Schultz*, Göttingen). The Stafne defect in the mandible was found in a large comparative study to be an anomaly and not a pathological change (*M. Finnegan*, Manhattan, Kansas and *A. Marcsik*, Szeged).

Rich variety of findings were demonstrated in section on the "Pathology of the Postcranial Bones and Joints". The question of amputations (*F. Metz and E. Ardila*, Caën), chronic osteomyelitis (*G. and S. Arnauld*, Draguignan, France), thigh bone pseudoarthrosis (*R. Perrot*, Lyon) dimensions of the pelvis in relation to the pregnancy (*M. Hohndorf-Hoferer*, Mainz) and several others were discussed.

Contributions to "Population Paleopathology" aimed to present a general picture of the skeletal health state of whole population samples, not describing merely single paleopathological cases. In this series, the interesting communication on skeletal changes in pre-European contact Australian aborigines (*A. T. Sandison*, Glasgow) brought among other examples of non-veneral syphilis. Population samples of the Ptolemaic Period from the Dakhla Oasis (*T. Dzierżykray-Rogalski*, Warsaw), of the Late Roman-Early Byzantine cemeteries at Sayala, Egyptian Nubia (*E. Strouhal*, Prague and *J. Jungwirth*, Vienna) and of the Christian population from Dongola, Sudanese Nubia (*E. Promiška*, Warsaw) contributed to the better knowledge of the paleopathology of the ancient Egyptians and Nubians. Other papers were focused on European populations (*R. Perrot et al.*, Lyon, *F. Germana*, Sassari, Italy, *A. Czarnetzki*, Tübingen and others).

All the contributions read at the Meeting will be published in a separate volume of the Journal of Human Evolution.

In spite of the fact, that paleopathology did not gain (except the Laboratory of Paleopathology at the Anthropological Institut of the Medical Faculty, University of Caën, France) any specialised departments or laboratories, the research in the past 5 years following the foundation of the Paleopathological Association in Detroit, U.S.A., in 1973 (through the initiative of A. Cockburn) shows an increasing trend in extent as well as in quality. Paleopathology gradually ceases to be a mere hobby of interested medical doctors or an appendix of some anthropological papers, describing found abnormalities, but becomes a specialised science needing own teaching, training, field-work and equipment. As Professor Dastugue stated in his contribution at the Meeting, "though being a (medical) doctor is a necessary condition, the condition is not sufficient. It is necessary, as well, to get a good anthropological formation, and, if possible, a good archaeological knowledge..." Paleopathology clearly stands between these three disciplines, gaining from them methods and facts and rewarding them by its own results. In the future, more possibilities for paleopathological research, for publication of paleopathological papers and for presenting paleopathological communications in specialised sections of any anthropological congresses should be provided.

Eugen Strouhal (Prague)

ROUND TABLE SYMPOSIUM ON PALEOGENETICS WITHIN THE SECOND ITALIAN CONGRESS OF ANTHROPOLOGY IN TRIESTE

After almost two decades Italian anthropologists gathered in Trieste from 13th to 15th October 1978 for their 2nd National Congress of the Anthropological Science. As President of the Congress was appointed Professor P. Fusaroli, director of the Anatomical Institut of the University of Trieste, where the proceedings of the Congress were housed.

There were presented four major communications, viz. on the interorganic and somatovisceral correlations (*G. Lambertini*, Neapol and Ferrara), on the human biology of the Bozzo, fishermen of the river Niger in Mali (*G. Huizinga*, Utrecht), on the prehistory of the Friuli and Venezia Giulia Region (*A. Radmilli*, Pisa) and on the physical anthropology in its social dimensions (*L. Brian*, Geneva). A quantity of short contributions were given as well.

Two Round Table Symposiums were organised in the scope of the Congress. One of them was devoted to the definition of Anthropology as natural science of Man concerning its contents and contacts with other disciplines. The other, organized in memory of the late Professor R. Parenti, was focused on Paleogenetics, and was organized by Professor S. Borgognini-Tarli (Pisa). In the first time it was possible to discuss in a specialised international meeting hold in English the significance and limits of the use of the so-called minor, non-metric, discrete or epigenetic traits.

W. R. K. Perizonius (Utrecht) demonstrated on a sample from 19th century Amsterdam with known age and sex, that age dependence does not virtually exist, while there was possible to prove sexual difference for some traits. According to his opinion, these traits should be excluded from the battery of employed traits.

On the contrary, however, sex differences were found in some other traits by *G. G. Cossedu*, *G. Floris* and *G. Vona* (Cagliari). These authors did not find side differences except in the parietal foramen, occurring more often on the right side than on the left one.

E. Strouhal (Prague) and *J. Jungwirth* (Vienna) tested by means of the epigenetic traits the question, whether

people buried in three collective burial complexes of Late Roman-Early Byzantine Period in Sayala, Egyptian Nubia, belonged to the same basic population. Moreover, they found unusually high incidence of some features pointing to the high rate of inbreeding. Compared with ancient Egyptian and Negro African series, the Sayala population showed mostly different percentages of occurrence of single epigenetic features disclosing no relations to either of them.

S. Borgognini-Tarli, G. Paoli and † R. Parenti (Pisa) outlined the technical possibilities of the MN blood group determination in human bones, which will further enrich the possibility of study of monofactorial genetic features. Only 2–3 g of spongiotic bone taken out from the femoral head should be sufficient.

G. Antonutto, M. Melato and A. Pezzoli (Trieste) contributed to paleohistology and immunochemistry of human

bones of the Iron Age. They succeeded to extract organic substance showing common antigenic points with some proteic components of the human serum. By electrophoresis, they were able to demonstrate its fundamental components (e.g. collagen, glucose, galactose etc.).

The expected papers of J. Nemeskéri (The Paleogenetic Survey of the Foramen Transversarium of the Avar Age Series, Hungary) and of I. Lengyel (Blood Group Distribution in Certain Cemeteries of the Early Hungarian Middle Ages) could not be, unfortunately, presented, because of the late arrival of both participants.

All papers of the Symposium including the lastly mentioned two ones will be published in a special volume of the Journal of Human Evolution devoted to memory of Professor Parenti.

Eugen Strouhal (Prague)