

— *Le vieillissement et sa prévention* (trois relations: des proff. Jean Vignalou, professeur émérite de la Faculté de Médecine de Paris, Alessandro M. Maderna, directeur de la II^{ème} Chaire de Psychologie de la Faculté de Médecine de Milan et Bruno Finzi, Médecin-chef de l'Hôpital gériatrique „Giustinian“ de Venise et cinq communications). Les participants ont considéré surtout les pathologies les plus fréquentes au cours de la vieillesse, les critères fondamentaux relatifs au vieillissement et la dynamique psychologique particulière de la personne âgée, même sous le point de vue préventif.

— *Bioclimatologie humaine* (trois relations: des proff. Bernard Primault, chef de Section de Biométéorologie de l'Institut Suisse de Météorologie, Bernard Huet, Président de l'Association Française de Biométéorologie, Tommaso Berarducci de l'Institut d'Hydrologie et climatologie médicale de Milan, et six communications). Les milieux de travail, avec leurs conditions climatiques internes et externes et la prévention des accidents, sur la base d'une meilleure connaissance de leur déterminisme biométéorologique, ont été particulièrement considérés.

— *Coopération et développement socio-culturel au Sahara et au Sahél* (une relation du Dr. Attilio Gaudio, directeur du „Centre International de Recherches Sahariennes et Sahéliennes“ de Paris et aussi neuf communications). Les conditions de vie des populations qui habitent les régions pré-désertiques, leurs traditions, culturelles, surtout leur problèmes, souvent tragiques, par rapport au milieu inhospitalier, sont certains des arguments qui ont été mis en particulière évidence.

— *Ancêtres humains et Archéologie préhistorique de la Sardaigne* (une relation du prof. Carlo Maxia, ès Doyen de la Faculté de Sciences et directeur de l'Institut de Sciences Anthropologiques de l'Université de Cagliari, et huit communications). Les rapporteurs ont rappelé certaines des étapes les plus significatives de l'évolution humaine et plusieurs problèmes scientifiques liés, ainsi que les apports les plus représentatifs de quelques Auteurs.

Ensuite l'ancienne histoire des premiers habitants de la Sardaigne a été mise en évidence avec les nombreuses constructions mégalithiques que tant d'hypothèses opposées ont suscité.

Comme corollaire aux travaux de Congrès, deux manifestations du folklore de la Sardaigne et une „excursion“ à Lasplassas et à Barumini étaient organisées. Les congressistes ont pu admirer, dans ce dernier petit pays, un complexe nuragique très suggestif. *Luigi Brian*

THE ARCHANTHROPIC PARIETAL BONE FROM THE ARAGO CAVE

During the symposium „Les processus de l'homini- sation“ held between July 16—20, 1980 in Paris Professor H. de Lumley showed a new find of a left parietal bone, fitting very well into the facial skeletal remains discovered by him in the same cave earlier. The recently discovered parietal bone shows some interesting features. When we attach it to the facial skeleton we can see that the missing occipital part of the skull was similar to the Swanscombe skull. It was certainly more rounded than we could expect with typical male *Homo erectus* skulls (East Asian Peking finds, South-east Asian Trinil and Sangiran finds or the No. 9 specimen from Olduvai in Africa). Another interesting feature is the smaller endocranial space in the front part of the skull than in the remaining endocranium. On calculating the probable endocranial volume according to the frontal bone only we would obtain values lower than they were in reality. The fact that different parts of the same endocranium are not in harmonious relationship indicates that the mosaic development of morphological features takes place not only between functionally different characters, but in some cases even between various parts of a single morphological unit.

There is no doubt the anthropological community eagerly awaits the publication of a detailed report on this new and important fossil. *J. J.*

The 4th International Congress of Slavic Archaeology was held between September 15—22, 1980 in Sofia. The event was organized by the Archaeological Institute and Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, commissioned by the International Union of the Slavic Archaeology. The Congress was attended by some 300 scientists from 20 countries and it took place in the following sections:

1. The Slavs and their neighbours, 2 A. The ethnogenesis and migration of the Slavs, 2 B. Life, activities and the art of the Slavs, 3 A. Beginnings of the Slavic settlements, fortified settlements and towns, 3 B. Structure and development of the Slavic towns, 4. Interdisciplinary research. The names of the individual sections well characterize the scope of problems the congress was dealing with.

Anthropology, however, remained somewhat in the background and quite regrettably so. The anthropological research of the Slavic populations in the territory of Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, German Democratic Republic, Poland, Hungary, Soviet Union, but also in Austria, Yugoslavia and other countries have had a number of remarkable achievements. Some of the extensive studies published in these countries reach far beyond the Old Slavonic period.

Only five papers dealing with anthropology were read at the Sofia Congress: P. Boev, N. Kondova, S. Cholakov (Sofia) Anthropological data on the Slavonic population in our countries, P. Boev, N. Kondova, S. Cholakov (Sofia) Palaeodemographic data of the Slavonic inhabitants of Bulgaria, I. Yordanov (Sofia) Anthropological characteristics of the burials from a Slavonic Christian necropolis (9—10 centuries) in north-east Bulgaria, J. Jakab (Nitra) Some topical problems of the anthropological research of the Slavs in Slovakia, M. Stloukal (Prague) The Old Slavonic population of the territory of Czechoslovakia.

These papers had gave us a very positive picture on the activities of the anthropologists, however, it was too little to acquaint the Slavic archaeologists gathered in Sofia with the whole width of the problem studied by the anthropology of the Old Slavonic people. On the other hand the Congress was an excellent opportunity for the anthropologists to get first-hand information on the latest researches of the Slavic archaeology, but also with its orientation and plans and with the problems it is facing. Some delegations brought to the conference printed sets of papers read by their members nevertheless we are looking forward to obtain the Congress Proceedings containing all the papers. We do hope very much that the programme of the next congress of Slavic archaeology to be held in Kiev in 1985, will boast also a fully represented anthropological section. *M. Stloukal*

VALCAMONICA SEMINAR: THE ORIGINS OF ART

The seminar on the origins of art was held in Valcamonica between October 30 and November 2, 1980.

During the seminar the following subjects were discussed:

- The oldest manifestations of artistic creativity.
- Birth of the concept of art.
- Is there a universal concept of art?
- Why art? Causes and motivations.
- Biology of art.
- Psychology of art.
- Art aesthetics and intellectualisation.
- Art ideology and religion.

The papers delivered during the seminar will be published in a Seminar Proceedings.

During the seminar a special exhibition of artefacts, reproductions and other documents was held.

In a half-day excursion the participants of the seminar visited the rock art sites of Valcamonica. *J. J.*