

VALŠÍK'S MEMORIAL — THE 9TH BARTOŠ
SYMPOSIUM ON DERMATOGLYPHICS

The Ninth Bartoš Symposium took place on November 5–7 1980 in the Smolenice Castle of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The event was held in memory of Professor Valšík propagator of dermatoglyphics and one of the foremost Czechoslovak experts in this branch. Traditionally the symposium was organized by the Department of Anthropology of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava and by the Dermatoglyphic Section of the Slovak Anthropological Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The event was attended by experts from ten countries. Besides Czechoslovak authors there was a numerous delegation from Hungary and represented were also Poland, Austria, the German Democratic Republic, USA, Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom and Bulgaria. Official languages of the symposium were English and German and altogether 23 papers were read.

The symposium was opened by doc. M. Drobná from Bratislava, representative of the Slovak Anthropological Society. In her opening address she commemorated the late Professor Valšík and appreciated the traditionally good working and businesslike atmosphere of all the hitherto Bartoš symposia.

The agenda of the first day dealt with methodological and genetic aspects of dermatoglyphics. The session was chaired by Mrs. B. Schaumann (USA), Secretary of the International Dermatoglyphic Association (IDA).

Professor H. W. Kloepfer (USA) remembered the late Harold Cummins, his life and work, including co-operation with him in New Orleans.

Methodologically most interesting was the paper by Professor A. G. Wilde (Netherlands), putting forward a new theory of ridge patterns that should be comprehended as a total system. His theory is based on cases of syndactylies, with ridges on the proximal and middle phalanges passing from one finger to the other. The system of crest patterns is not obvious in adults, since the fingers are normally separated and are of various lengths. He makes so-called total prints, including the marginal parts of the fingers and of the palm, bringing optically in line the distal interphalangeal and metacarpophalangeal furrows, to come nearer to the embryonic state of the handplate. The author holds that the basal phalanx of the thumb probably corresponds to the middle phalanx of the forefinger and the thenar is homologous to the proximal phalanx of the forefinger. In the total print too, he attaches optically the thumb and thenar to the other fingers, acquiring thus an overall system of papillary patterns. In the total print of the hand it depicts besides all three radiants of each triradius also each fifth-to-tenth line, across the entire print without interruption. The five-finger patterns of one hand form five components of a single continuous total pattern. On the left hand the patterns are arranged ulno-radially, on the right hand, on the contrary, radio-ulnarly. From the depicted patterns in the total print follows that on the left hand the pattern of the 5th finger distally stands higher than the other finger patterns of the hand, on the right hand the pattern of the 1st finger is distally superior to those of the other fingers. The pattern does not need to pass necessarily over all the remaining fingers or over the neighbouring finger and these then form a special group. When we sum up the lengths of the ridge beam running on the total print towards the edge of the right hand with the length of the

beam of ridges in the homologue fingers of the left hand, we shall see that they are constant for all five fingers, proving the theory of complementarity of bimanual differences symmetry.

Dr. G. Karev (Bulgaria) spoke about the bilateral symmetry of finger patterns in Bulgarians. He has introduced a new index of symmetry of finger patterns, which is the share between the percentage of the symmetry of the concrete pattern and between the frequency percentage of the pattern on a certain finger. Dr. M. Kuklík (Prague) dealt with correlations of the frequencies of the papillary lines in the fingers. Professor H. W. Kloepfer (USA) presented proofs on the applicability of dermatoglyphic and anthropometric characteristics on testing the zygosity of twins.

With similar problems were dealing the two studies on the genetic dependence of the absence, desorganisation or abortion of triradius *c*. Dr. M. Wojciechowska (Poland) tackled the aspects of transfer in multi-generation families and Dr. L. Horváth (Hungary) compared their presence in healthy people and in people with various diseases.

The last paper of the day was presented, in addition to the programme, by Doc. E. A. Jagolnitzer (France), who followed the mutual dependence of the total number of lines (TRC) in parents and in groups of children according to sex.

The first day ended with a very nice informal social evening, where friends from the former symposia met and new personal contacts were realized.

The second day was chaired by M. Pospíšil (Bratislava) and the papers were focused on the sphere of ethnic, namely on clinical dermatoglyphics.

At the previous symposia prevailed papers on ethnic dermatoglyphics — this time there were only two such papers: Dr. I. Tóth (Hungary) presented the results of dermatoglyphic examination of three populations in the Hajdu-Bihar County and H. Pluhařová (Prague) spoke about the occurrence of various types of interphalangeal furrows in the Australian aborigines.

The most extensive group of papers, on the application of dermatoglyphics in the clinical medicine was opened by Dr. B. Schaumann (USA). She presented a list of dermatoglyphic finds connected with diseases caused by chromosomal aberrations, i.e. in genetically transferable diseases, but also finds in environmental and post-natally contracted diseases. After this paper followed a very rich discussion, the participants spoke about their observations in a number of diseases. There was a very interesting and stimulative discussion concerning the selection of the control group, concluding that the control group must differ from the patients only through the absence of karyotypical and phenotypical manifestations of the disease, but they must be of identical age, sex, ethnic composition and somatotype. Of course they must come from the same geographical region and it would be also advisable to observe the same order of birth.

Professor M. Weninger (Austria) is a very experienced dermatoglyphics expert. In her paper she showed a very critical attitude to the diagnostic value of dermatoglyphs, namely in chromosomal aberrations. In her view dermatoglyphs have some importance, although sometimes only a limited one, in a number of diseases, due to their further symptomatic aspect. This critical paper had provoked an extensive discussion.

Doc. B. Wittwer (German Democratic Republic) made a comparative study in ten various cytogenetic forms of Down's syndrom. A number of other papers dealt with the

same disease. Dr. J. Buday (Hungary) concentrated on the heredity of typical characteristics. Dr. G. Hauser (Austria) followed the occurrence of zygodactylic triradii on the planta of patients with M. D., Dr. V. Šedivý (Prague) spoke about various dermatoglyphs on the medial and proximal phalanges. Dr. M. Kuklík (Prague) followed the quantitative characters on the palms of parents having children with Down's syndrome.

Dr. V. Šedivý (Prague) tackled also the problem of control group in psychotic patients. Dr. L. Novák (Žilina) presented the results of his study of a family with diatrophic nanism. Dr. M. Stloukalová (Prague) spoke about dermatoglyphic finds in patients with chronic juvenile arthritis. Doc. M. Pospíšil (Bratislava) presented his conclusions on dermatoglyphs in patients affected by Bechterev's disease. This series of lectures was ended with the paper by Dr. E. Pagáčová (Bratislava) on dermatoglyphic finds in various diseases.

In addition to the original agenda spoke also Dr. P. Saldanha-Garcia (United Kingdom), dealing with loop patterns on the parathenar.

Most papers provoked vivid discussions, continuing even outside the conference hall.

The 9th Bartoš Symposium was concluded by Doc. M. Pospíšil, Head of the Dept. of Anthropology of the Bratislava University. He thanked all the participants for the high standard of their contributions and the organizers for the traditionally good and businesslike atmosphere of the event. He also added that the next Bartoš Symposium on dermatoglyphics will again be called Valšík Memorial and will be held in 1982 as a satellite symposium of the Congress of the Czechoslovak Anthropologists in Banská Bystrica.

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FEDERAZIONE DELLE ISTITUZIONI ANTROPOLOGICHE ITALIANE

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Presidente: Prof. Luigi Brian.

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Depuis quelques années déjà, a été fondée, en Italie, la Fédération susdite, en vue de développer les organismes et les programmes plus valables des disciplines anthropologiques.

Pour en mettre mieux en évidence structure et finalités voici transcrits les premiers articles des Statuts.

ARTICLE 1 — La *Fédération des Institutions Anthropologiques Italiennes* est constituée (26. 02. 1977); avec son siège à Gênes:

ARTICLE 2 — La F.I.A.I. a pour but le développement et la diffusion des Sciences anthropologiques dans la culture nationale, particulièrement au niveau universitaire.

La Fédération se propose de:

a) favoriser les rapports entre les diverses institutions anthropologiques, entre les chercheurs, ainsi qu'entre les institutions elles-mêmes et les organismes ministériels chargés de l'instruction universitaire;

b) promouvoir et soutenir les intérêts didactiques et scientifiques des Sciences anthropologiques dans le domaine de la politique scolaire et des institutions culturelles;

c) favoriser les relations et les échanges avec les institutions analogues étrangères à travers des congrès, symposia, conférences nationales et internationales.

ARTICLE 3 — *Font partie de la F.I.A.I.:*

a) les institutions universitaires d'Anthropologie et disciplines analogues de Torino, Genova, Cagliari, Padova, Pisa, Firenze, Siena, Bologna, Roma, Napoli, Messina, Pavia, Ferrara, Sassari, Camerino, sauf mise à jour avec délibération de l'assemblée;

b) les sociétés et associations de Sciences anthropologiques suivantes: Società italiana di Antropologia ed Etnologia, Firenze; Istituto Italiano di Antropologia, Roma; Istituto Italiano di Preistoria e protoistoria, Firenze; Istituto Italiano di Paleontologia umana, Roma; Unione Antropologica Italiana, Torino; sauf mise à jour avec délibération de l'assemblée;

c) représentants des catégories suivantes; professeurs titulaires et retraités, professeur chargés des cours, assistants, techniciens diplômés, contractuels, boursiers, afférents aux Instituts susdits et aux disciplines suivantes: Anthropologie, Anthropométrie, Ergonomie, Biologie humaine, Biologie des populations humaines (Biologie des races humaines), Ecologie humaine, Ecologie préhistorique, Primatologie, Paléontologie humaine, Ethologie des Primates, Ethnographie naturaliste, sauf mise à jour avec délibération de l'assemblée.

Ces programmes, pouvaient contribuer sans doute, dans le cadre des organisations anthropologiques multinationales, au développement des rapports entre les institutions italiennes et leurs homologues dans les différents pays.

Prof. Luigi Brian