

été voués au polymorphisme chromosomique et à l'étude des familles porteuses des translocations. La section de l'anthropologie préhistorique et historique a traité la biomécanique du complexe pelvico-fémoral des hominides et son importance d'évolution, le problème de la naissance du langage articulé de l'Homme, la variabilité mondiale des dimensions du crâne, la forme et les dimensions du secteur lombaire du canal vertébral, la fréquence du métopisme des populations ibériques et quelques nouvelles découvertes anthropologiques pendant des recherches archéologiques.

Le programme du congrès a compris deux excursions. Le tracé de l'une d'entre elles a conduit à travers les curiosités historiques et naturelles de l'Est de l'Asturie — grottes de Tito Bustillo près de Ribadasella, qui renferme des exemples de l'art des cavernes de chasseurs magdaléniens, et ancienne résidence royale et lieu de pèlerinage de Covadonga. La seconde excursion, plus courte, a fait connaître aux participants des monuments architectoniques préromains de l'époque du roi des Asturies, Ramire Ire (IX^e siècle) à Monte Naranco en amont d'Oviedo.

Le symposium, dont l'organisation était exemplaire, a donné une nouvelle preuve de la tendance toujours croissante du développement de l'anthropologie espagnole. Il a éveillé un grand intérêt même parmi les jeunes adeptes de cette branche, dont plusieurs ont participé activement aux débats scientifiques.

Eugen Strouhal

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL EGYPTOLOGICAL CONGRESS IN GRENOBLE

The 2nd International Egyptological Congress in Grenoble between Sept. 10–15, 1979 furnished proof of the unprecedented development of this particular branch. The event was attended by some 600 experts from many countries and a total of almost 250 scientific papers were presented in its course. The papers were divided into 7 topical sections and into 6 specialized working groups. For the first time in the history of Oriental Studies congresses there was also a round table conference dedicated to the questions of physical anthropology of the ancient Egyptians. The event was organized by Y. Coppens (Paris) and E. Strouhal (Prague).

The papers read at the congress documented the wide topical and methodical scope of the branch, more and more actively applied in the research of ancient Egypt. Anthropometrical and anthroposcopic approach has remained the basis of these studies — with its help have been processed also the new series of skeletal materials of the Old Empire from Gizeh (Fawzia H. Hussein and Moheb M. Shabaan), from the Roman period (2nd–3rd century A.D.) from Antinoë (R. Grilletto) and a series from the 26th Dynasty and Ptolemaic periods from Balat in the oasis of Kharga (E. Promińska). In the more ancient predynastic series from Gebelen the method of morphosomatigrammes was used (M. Masali) for determining the constitutional types.

Other papers have tried to penetrate deeper to the problems of biology through the use of modern natural historical and medical methods. Let us mention here the study of the skin of the predynastic natural mummies (E. Rabino Massa), ABO blood typing based on the materials of blood's collection in Turin (S. M. Borgognini-Tarli and G. Paoli), the nutritional stress studied on the populations of the Merotic and Christian periods in the Sudanese part of Nubia (G. J. Armelagos and others), the proof of tetracycline staining in the pre-antibiotics populations from the same area (E. J. Bassett) and the radiological finds in the mummy of King Ramesses II (A. C. Thuilliez and Lichtenberg).

The papers by P. K. Lewin and W. M. Pahl dealt especially with the problems of modern methodology and laboratory methods. Racial classification and its application for the Nubian material was subjected to criticism by D. L. Greene and the frequently quoted documents on the work of dentists in ancient Egypt were critically reassessed by F. F. Leek. The question of the possible use of the solution of wax and resinous matter as "mummification bath" was discussed by A. Niwiński.

A general survey of the present state of the research of anthropology of the ancient Egypt and Nubia, presented by the reviewer, showed the increasing activity gradually moving from Nubia to Egypt proper. However, still remain many unknown places and periods, namely in the Nile River valley south of the Dal Cataract. Alongside with conventional anthropological methods frequently are applied also new procedures, making use of the progress of the natural sciences, offering quite unexpected insights into the biology and pathology of the ancient Egyptian population. The amassing of new data has lead also to new attempts to make a synthesis of the human evolution in the Nile Valley. From the practical viewpoint there is an imperative need to man the local research of burial sites with qualified anthropologists and consequently to extend the courses of anthropology at the Egyptian and Sudanese universities.

Connected with anthropology, were also the papers on Queen Mutnodjmet, spouse of Horemhab, the last king of the 18th dynasty, in view of the recent discovery of her burial in Horemhab's grave in Sakkra. The achievements of Egyptology were summarized by G. T. Martin, and those of anthropology and palaeopathology were dealt with by the reviewer.

Eugen Strouhal

DISCUSSION ON THE SAINT-CÉSAIRE NEANDERTHAL FIND

The surprising discovery of the fragmentary skeleton of classic Neanderthal man in the Chatelperronian level of "Roche à Pierot" at Saint-Césaire, Charente, presented by F. Leveque and B. Vandemeersch, is now being commented on and is being discussed by different scholars (La Recherche 119, 1981, 242–243; Nature 287, 1980, 271–272; Nature 289, 1981, 823–824). Further evidence is reconsidered: at Vindija, Yugoslavia, a Neanderthal-like find is associated with an Aurignacian industry (Malez); at Hahnöfersand, FRG, Neanderthaloid frontal bone is dated as late as 36,000 BP (ApSimon), and the isolated molars from the Arcy Chatelperronian are considered as more Neanderthal than Upper Palaeolithic by A. Leroi-Gourhan. On the other hand, finds of modern man in the Chatelperronian of Combe-Capelle are now believed to belong to a more recent occupation of this site. It may be concluded, therefore, that in Western Europe the Neanderthal man could have persisted longer than was expected, in the period called the Upper Palaeolithic, while in the Near East, we can trace the modern human type earlier than 60,000 years ago already (Vandemeersch).

How can Central Europe contribute to this discussion? The archaeological transition from the Mousterian to the Upper Palaeolithic seems now to be due to a continual technological evolution, from the Levallois to the blade technology. The transitional horizon, the Bohunician, is dated to about 41,000 BP at the eponyme site, and it may have played similar intermediary role as the Chatelperronian of France several thousand years later. K. Valoch believes that the Neanderthal Šipka find is relatively late, perhaps as late as the Early Upper Palaeolithic, and the same is probably true for the uppermost Kůlna Micoquian (45,660–38,600 BP in the layer 7a). The type of the Bohunician man, however, is not known. Anthropological finds of modern man at Mladeč and Koněprusy are difficult to be related to some of the archaeological cultures. The typical bone points suggest an Early Upper Palaeolithic age, but we do not know whether they belong to the Bohunician, Szeletian, or (most probably) to the Aurignacian.

From the general point of view, we admit that exact correlation between the evolution of morphological human types and of archaeological cultures is rarely possible. If the Homo erectus is sometimes related to the Acheulian and sometimes to quite different type of industries, it is not surprising to find the Neanderthal man associated with both the Mousterian and the Upper Palaeolithic, and to trace the modern man far back to the Mousterian period. It seems that the morphological variability of human population in a given chronological horizon could have been more important than we ever thought.

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