

A. Drusini and M. Ripa Bonati (Padova, Italy), Les momies naturelles de Venzone et de Ferentillo (Italy). E. de Valck (Antwerp, Belgium), Palaeopathology and Gustafson's method of age determination on teeth. P. J. Perez and J. M. Bermudez de Castro (Madrid, Spain; read by J. M. Revette), Signs of cultural activity in human bones of the chalkolithic period. D. Thiépoint (Turnhout, Belgium), Poetry in parasitology (projection of slides on the music of St. Saëns "Le Carnaval des Animaux"). A. K. G. Jones (Heslington, UK), Recent finds of intestinal parasite ova at York, UK. J. Jansen and J. H. Boersema (Utrecht, Netherlands), Helminthic infections in medieval Amsterdam and Utrecht. J. G. Anderson (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), The osteo-archaeological diagnosis of leprosy. K. Manchester (Bradford, UK), Information on the Leprosy Study Group. E. Fulcheri (Genova, Italy), Differential diagnosis between palaeopathological and non-pathological post mortem environmental factors in ancient human remains. G. J. R. Maat (Leiden, Netherlands), Scurvy in Dutch whalers buried at Spitzbergen. H. A. Waldron (London, UK), Lead in bone — a tale of the unexpected. D. Muller and W. R. K. Perizonius (Utrecht, Netherlands), Alterations in the alveolar bone of early medieval jaw fragments (Dorestad). I. Kühl (Schleswig, FRG), Fine trabecular structures on fragments from cremated burials. I. Lengyel (Budapest, Hungary), Physiological and pathological processes interfering with the reliability of the estimation of the age at death. D. Buhman and C. P. Adler (Homburg/Saar, FRG), A thousand years old building — church or hospital?

A number of other topics appeared on the "posters", among them an interesting case of osteolytic and osteoplastic metastases from grave 7 of the Bačka Topola burial ground in the Voivodina, northern Yugoslavia (L. Vékony, Subotica, Yugoslavia), or a selection of 24 interesting cases from a collection of clinically proved changes of bones by Albert Narath (1864—1924), professor of surgery in Utrecht and Heidelberg. They were on show without indicating the diagnosis and each participant of the meeting was asked to try and make the diagnosis. Later in the course of the meeting correct diagnoses were attached to the individual cases so that the participants could check their results.

The meeting, full of rich discussion and exchange of the latest achievements, took place in the traditional spirit of friendship and co-operation among the European researchers. On the last day of the meeting we were shocked by the sudden death of Professor A. T. Sandison, a renowned British pathologist. He was found dead in his hotel room the night following the last congress day. Professor Sandison, co-author of the wellknown work "Diseases in Antiquity" (1967) was one of the pioneers and top representatives of palaeopathology in the United Kingdom. The community of European palaeopathology will miss him, his tremendous mass of knowledge and his unique human qualities.

Eugen Strouhal

#### THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR NUBIAN STUDIES

The Society for Nubian Studies was founded ten years ago (in 1972) on the initiative of the recently deceased Professor K. Michalowski. It has been a logical consequence of the successfully completed international project organized by the UNESCO in order to save the cultural monuments of Nubia and to join the researchers scattered in various countries, to exchange their experience and to assess the materials obtained during the project. The first meeting dealing with Nubian topic took place in 1969 in Essen, before founding the society, the second in Warsaw in 1972, the third in Chantilly near Paris in 1975 and the fourth in Cambridge, in the UK, in 1978.

The preparatory work for the 5th International Conference of Nubian Studies was started by the Professor of Christian Archaeology in Heidelberg Dr. Erich Dinkler. After his sudden death on June 28, 1981 the preparations were completed by his wife Dr. E. Dinkler-von Schubert. Thanks to her efforts the conference was prepared in an exemplary way and it took place on schedule between September 20 to 25, 1982 on the premises of the University and Academy

of Sciences in Heidelberg, Federal Republic of Germany.

After the opening addresses delivered by the Rector of the Heidelberg University, by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Education of the Government of Baden-Württemberg and by the acting President of the Society for Nubian Studies Professor Dr. J. M. Plumley followed the main papers by A. Osman and E. Kleppe "Sudan Archaeology 1925—1975", by P. van Moersel and J. Debergh "A propos des listes nubiennes", A. Osman "The Islamisation of the Sudan in the light of archaeology and anthropology", M. Rodziewicz "The Christian Pottery in Nubia and Kharga Oasis" and by the same author "Contribution to the pottery from Professor Dr. E. Dinkler's excavations in Nubia".

After these main papers the conference attended by 130 scholars continued its agenda in two sections; in each section some 60 papers were presented, accompanied by rich documentation, provoking a very lively discussion. One section focused prevalently on linguistic aspects and on historic conclusions based upon linguistic works. New Meroean texts were presented, the primitive Greek of the Blemyan text were analysed, as well as the historic relations among Blemians, Nubians, Egyptians and Arabs. Many papers focused on new texts written in the ancient Nubian language (e.g. from the Serra East Codex), on the morpho-phonology of the ancient Nubian language and on relations between the Nubian group of languages on the one side, and between the languages of the Meidob and Darfur regions, on the other. There was of course also a complex assessment of the linguistic aspects concerning the history of ancient Nubia.

The second section comprised both archaeology and Christian archaeology. At present the interest of archaeologists concentrates on recently opened sites in the Sudanese part of Nubia the Saggai, Geili, Kadada, Ghaba, Taragma, Kadero, Kerma, Abri, Ukma, Sedienga, Meroe and Naq'a localities. Research has been launched also in the desert west of the Nile valley (the Wadi Howar, Laquiva Arbain, Wadi Sahal and other localities), and in the Kasala Province (the Gash Delta). Some papers dealt with the analysis of the monuments in the Egyptian Nubia (Christian monuments in Sayala, the chronology of burial sites of Ballana and Qustul, the relation between the culture in the northern parts of Nubia and between that of the southern part at the time of Group X; there was also an analysis of the Ottoman Turkish fort of Qasr Ibrim).

In the branch of Christian archaeology and history of arts many papers concentrated on the problem of Christian frescoes in Nubia. They studied the topic, technique and ornaments of these frescoes. Besides the classical frescoes of Faras the researchers presented also a number of frescoes from other localities (Abu Hoda). A complex picture of the Nubian pictorial art was presented and special attention was paid to the ancient Greek and Coptic influences evident in these paintings. Other papers dealt with the local bishop graves, and with Christian tomb-stones and sepulchral monuments in general, with the biography of Nabis, Bishop of Aidhab, the worship of Saint Theodor and with questions connected with the pilgrimage of the Nubian Christians. The branch of physical anthropology was tackled by Chr. Simon only, in his "Contribution à la connaissance de l'anthropologie du Kerma ancien". Other papers were cancelled due to the absence of the authors.

The programme of the evening hours contained complex reports by renowned researchers on the research they are undertaking at present. J. Vercoutter spoke about "L'île de Saï 1969—1981", S. Jakobielski on "Polish excavations at Old Dongola 1978—1982", F. Geus "Trois années d'activité de la Section Française de la Direction des Antiquités du Soudan (1979—1982)", F. W. Winkel "Reconstruction work at the Royal Cemetery of Meroe" and others.

On the fringe of the congress the participants viewed an exhibition of Nubian pottery from the research of Professor Dinkler, and exhibition of recent publications on Nubia, an exhibition of the collections of the Institute of Classical Archaeology and from the collections of the Institute of Egyptology of the University of Heidelberg, an exhibition of Greek and Coptic papyri owned by the University of Heidelberg. The social programme of the congress included an excursion to the Heidelberg Castle and trips to Speyer and Ladenburg.

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