

bited the area around Siena, the place of the meeting. The researchers used for this study iconographic documents, archaeological finds, dental research, and finds on backbones. Of great importance was blood typing of the ABH system on the basis of dentine of the Etrurians.

Most extensive was the section of population palaeopathology. It comprised lectures on Italian, American Indian, Old Slavonic, Saharan Neolithic, ancient Polish and Egyptian, medieval French and Turkish populations. Some of them were oriented generally, others dealt with specific diseases and diseases of children. Forming part of this section were also the papers on the research of ancient Egyptian mummies in Bristol and Manchester.

Several very interesting papers were presented in the traumatological section, e.g. a detailed paper on the occurrence, localization and healing of trephinations in various periods of the Danish prehistory, on traumatic changes on the neck of femur in various prehistorical and historical populations of Germany, trephinations in Sardinia in the Eneolithic and Bronze periods, relation between tangential traumas of the cranial vault and trephinations, etc.

As regards congenital defects, attention was paid to the atlanto-axial joint, to spondylolysis, acrocephaly, genetic anaemia, etc. In the group of infectious diseases there were lectures on lepra and on syphilis. In the group of nutritional defects two papers focused on scurvy, one of the authors demonstrating macroscopically and microscopically extensive changes of a lethal from of this disease in the skeletal remains of Dutch whale hunters buried on the Spitsbergen Islands in the 17th and 18th century. The branch of oncology was represented by a single paper on the revision of three already published and on one not yet published tumours in ancient Egyptians. The section of Miscellanea consisted also of several interesting topics, such as the histological study of naturally preserved brain, faecal deposits in the early medieval York, palaeopathology of the feet of mummies and the distribution of leprosy hospitals in medieval England.

Eugen Strouhal

EXCAVATIONS AT STRÁNSKÁ SKÁLA IN 1984

Since 1982, a cultural layer attributed to the Levallois leptolithic technocomplex of the Bohunice-type is being excavated in the loess cover of the Stránská skála hill (site III) within the framework of the research project of the Archaeological Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Part of the area was excavated by the Anthropos Institute of the Moravian Museum.

The lithic industry, composed mainly of fragments, flakes and cores, represents the results of intensive primary processing of local hornstones. It is related to an Interstadial soil dated to $38\,200 \pm 1100$ B. P., GrN 12 297 (excavations of the Anthropos Inst.) and $38\,500 + 1400 - 1200$ B. P., GrN 12 298 (excavations of the Archaeological Inst.; the datings were kindly mediated by dr. K. Valoch). The gathered evidence suggests that the stone-workers were hunters of horses living in a steppe environment with rare arboreal elements (Anthropologie 21, 147-158; Přehled výzkumu 1982, 11-13; IIIrd Seminar in Petroarchaeology Plovdiv, 153-167).

New evidence has come to light during the 1984 working season. In section of the site numbered IIIa, Bohunice-type tools appears in the uppermost part of a thick siltification layer (the lower cultural horizon), redeposited most probably at the end of the First Würmian Pleniglacial. It is superimposed by interstadial soil (the upper cultural horizon), containing charcoal and even a circular hearth. The upper industry, still of workshop character, is nevertheless different from the lower one, and it includes typical Aurignacian tool types. Whereas almost all of the rare retouched tools found at Site III were made of rocks brought from elsewhere, the tools found at Site IIIa (both horizons) are made of local hornstone similarly as the rest of the industry.

On 19th September 1984 the site was visited by a commission of experts including J. Jelínek, R. Musil, J. Svoboda and K. Valoch. They outlined the future tasks and prospects of the research project.



Section of the site Stránská skála IIIa. The arrows indicate position of the two cultural horizons.

The technological analysis of industry and the geological, palaeobotanical and other studies of the site are actually in course. It is believed that the site will contribute not only to our knowledge of the primary working processes right at the raw material deposits, but also to the stratigraphy and ecology of the Early Upper Palaeolithic in Moravia.

Jiří Svoboda

A GLANCE AT THE SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ANTHROPOLOGY

(The Activity of the Czechoslovak Anthropological Society of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1984)

The tradition of the Czechoslovak anthropology the beginnings of which are connected with the name of J. E. Purkyně at the beginning of 19th century, obligates. The leaders of the Czechoslovak Anthropological Society of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (CSAS) realize that the names of the outstanding anthropologists Ales Hrdlička and J. Matiegka, the first professor of anthropology and rector of Charles University, mean responsibility. The aim of the activity of the CSAS is to see to the development of anthropology both through scientific research and through education of young scientists. With this basic activity is connected the publication of scientific results for the use of scholars done at scientific sessions, and the popularization of scientific notions in the sphere of anthropology among wide public; it is a way how to contribute to the raising of general population education. Greatly emphasized is also

the transferring of scientific notions to praxis e.g. medicine, history, etc. In 1984, as in previous years, the CSAS has been making its members towards fulfillment of these tasks.

The CSAS is a member of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) — (in the Permanent Council of which it has 6 members), and is also a member of the European Anthropological Association (EAA) — (in the committee of vice-president).

The CSAS had in the year 1984 (except the Slovak Anthropological Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences — SAS) 136 full members, 45 associate members, 7 honorary members (Czechoslovak (living), and 16 honorary members (foreign (living)). In the year 1984 the CSAS suffered a great loss in the death of Prof. Dr. F. Skaloud who was one of the founders of the Society, its honorary member and president of the Scientific commission for anthropology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. The Society has celebrated his 80th birthday in 1983. He always took active part in anthropological work and in the activities of the CSAS.

The leadership of the CSAS lay in the hands of the Central Committee of which J. Jelinek was president, V. V. Jureš general secretary, and M. Šloukal treasurer. The organizational work was done by the secretariat in Prague and through the branches in Prague, Brno, and Olomouc and it was carried on in collaboration with the Scientific commission for anthropology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. The Slovakian Anthropological Society worked entirely independently but its representatives took regularly part in the meetings of Central Committee.

The scientific work of the CSAS was done by the specialized scientific sections (osteologic, pedagogic, anthropometric, the section of functional anthropology, the section of anthropology of motherhood, and in Slovakia the dermatophytic section). These sections followed up the scientific research and through the respective lectures, seminars and organized in various cities scientific lectures, seminars and conferences. In 1984 — 17 scientific sessions with 55 specialized lectures were organized for wide circles of scholars.

The main scientific event of the CSAS in 1984 were the III. Anthropological Days which took place in the castle of the Ministry of Education at Střítn near Prague. The leading theme was molecular anthropology. 5 longer papers were presented and an extensive discussion laid out tasks for this field of anthropology. The program of the second part related to the perspective of the anthropological research in Czechoslovakia and in museums, research institutes, in physical culture and other institutes in which qualified anthropologists work.

74 lectures and excursions to the Museum of Man of Aleš Hrdlička in Prague were organized in the frame of popularization activity for lay public, and 112 scientific-popular lectures for young people. The Consultation center of the CSAS through 14 detaché work-shops was responsible for passing on the new scientific notions to scholars of other scientific branches and even to interested laymen. In 1984 — 157 consultations of this kind were realized.

The Documentation Center of CSAS in Brno contributes to deepening of the scientific work in anthropology. It keeps records of all the anthropological work in Czechoslovakia, it secures the exchange of scientific papers with the foreign countries, and runs the library of the CSAS. In the year 1984 it has catalogued 1028 titles of scientific works, it has acquired 130 Czechoslovak and foreign scientific periodicals, and 237 book publications. This kind of organizational work of the Czechoslovak anthropologists maximal information on the contemporary results of the anthropological work in Czechoslovakia and even that in foreign countries.

The publication activity was realized through the journal: „Zprávy Čes. společnosti antropologické při CSAV“ (The News of the Czechoslovak Anthropological Society of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences) and through the journal Anthropologie, both distributed by the Documentation Center in Brno, and through other scientific especially medical journals.

The CSAS hasn't forgotten neither the care of young scientific workers. They get their education first of all at

the high schools. They are lead to scientific work and this encourages them to participate in the competition for the best Price of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička. This competition is organized every year by the leaders of the city Humpolec (the birth place of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička). The prizes are awarded on the base of the recommendation of the Scientific Council whose members are the members of the CSAS. In this way the work of the young adepts is appreciated and their constant interest in scientific work is supported.

The international contacts of the CSAS in 1984 were very active. The main event was the participation in the III. Congress of EAA in Florence in which 25 Czechoslovak anthropologists took part and presented 16 scientific papers. The large participation was enabled by organizing an independent thematic trip. Beside attending this congress the members of CSAS took part in scientific events in Austria, Poland, Sweden, USSR. Very active was the cooperation with the Anthropological Society in GDR; during mutual visits a joint symposium of both scientific anthropological societies was prepared. It will take place at Bad Schandau in 1985 and its theme will be Phylogenetic and ontogenetic aspects of human reproduction.

11 anthropologists from abroad have visited Czechoslovakia in 1984 and specialized sessions and lectures were organized with them. The leaders of the CSAS, on the request of Prof. Beshaw have amended the list of members and subscribers of the journal Current Anthropology, which was made up many years ago, so as to correspond with the present state and the scientific level of the subscribers.

The CSAS is responsible for its activity to the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and acts according to its general instructions so as to make the new scientific notions significant not only theoretically but enable them to influence positively the life of contemporary man. That is why even for the next year the same way of activity is planned, while stressing still more the solving of most actual anthropological problems in close cooperation with other scientific societies both Czechoslovak and even societies abroad.

Vladimír V. Novotný

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MERISTIC STUDIES IN ROME

The 5th International Congress of Meristic Studies was organized by the Department of Egyptology of the La Sapienza University in Rome, headed by Professor S. Donadoni. The event was held in Villa Mirafiori in Rome between July 2–7, 1984, and it focused on the history, culture, economy, linguistic and sociological problems of the Meric Empire in the 1st millennium B.C. and in the first-half of the 1st millennium A.D., covering the territory of the present-day northern Sudan called Kush in the ancient Egyptian sources. It influenced greatly also the political and cultural development of Egyptian Nubia.

The opening address of the inauguration ceremony was delivered by Professor J. Leclant (France) who spoke about the political and cultural relations between the Meric Empire and Rome. He emphasized the versatility and long-term character of these contacts. The surprising thing is that the Roman Empire fully respected the existence of this African empire on its southern borders. With the exception of a punitive expedition led by Petronius in the year 24 B.C. Rome never interfered with the Meric State and never tried to conquer it.

According to the traditions of the congress there were four sections and the texts of invited review papers and some of the contributed papers were multigraphed beforehand and distributed among the participants. The contributors of the papers thus were able to concentrate on certain selected parts of their papers and to present slides and documentary material and there was more time left for discussions.

The first part of the congress called "The Kush and the World Surrounding it" was opened by an invited review