TAUNG 60. *TAUNG DIAMOND JUBILEE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM*

On the 27 January—4th February 1985 Prof. P. V. Tobias with a large organizing panel organized the international symposium to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the discovery and anouncement of the Taung skull. The sessions were held mainly at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg with additional sessions at the University of Bophuthatswana, Mmabatho, near the site of Taung.

The patron-in-Chief of the Symposium was Prof. emeritus R. A. Dart.

The main aim of the symposium was to appraise the palaeoanthropological progress since 1925 to evaluate the palaeoanthropology of today and to examine prospects for the future of hominid evolutionary studies.

During the sessions of the Congress there were excursions to the Australopithecus sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans and Kromdraai with the visit of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria the repository of early hominids mainly from the above mentioned sites.

Following the sessions at the University of Bophuthatswana there was an excursion to the Taung site where the plaque commemorating the 1924 find was unveiled.

After the Congress a special excursion to Makapansgat in the northern Transvaal was organized.

The scientific programme consisted of principal invited lectures organized mainly geographically covering South Africa, East Africa, Asia and Australasia, Europe, North Africa and Middle East.

On 28th evening the 22nd Raymond Dart Lecture in the Great Hall of the University was held, preceeded by special Honorary Degree Ceremony of the University. On 31st followed the lecture "New Methods and Strategies in Hominid Evolution: Where do we go from here?" On 2nd February: "Africa as the Cradle of Man — Continental Wrap-up" and in the afternoon "Hominid Evolution and the Road ahead".

The closing ceremony in the evening on February 4 was followed by a Birthday Party for Prof. R. A. Dart. The proceedings of the Symposium will be published in book form before the end of 1985.

There is no doubt that this Taung diamond jubilee symposium was an important event of the 1985 year. It is a pitty that the South Africa Appartheid policy opposed by no-relation attitude by many states and international organisations made impossible the participation of many scientists.

Jan Jelínek

TABLE RONDE SUR L'INDUSTRIE OSSEUSE PEU ÉLABORÉE

Dr. Emiliano Aguirre en collaboration avec Marylène Patou ont organisé la réunion du groupe de travail „L'industrie osseuse peu élaborée" les 22, 23 et 24 février 1984 à l'Institut de Paléontologie Humaine à Paris. Pendant trois journées les problèmes des gisements et ensambles, méthodes et définitions, organisation, des activités futures at éditions des publications out été discutés. La rancontre représente une contribution fructueuse au travail international archéologique.

Jan Jelínek

COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL D'ART PARIETAL PALEOLITHIQUE

RECHERCHE ET CONSERVATION

The International Colloque was organized by the Centre National des Préhistoire in Perigueux and Le Thot and took place between November 19—22, 1984.

During the Colloque an exhibition "Discovery of the Cave and Rock art" was inaugurated.

During 4 days 34 communications were presented. The working sessions were concluded by round table discussions on the following five topics:

1. Problems of the protection and conservation in the time of the discovery. Presided by J. Jelínek and M. Clottes.
2. Techniques and Methods of the research and documentation. Presided by F. Jorda Cerda and M. Lorblanchet.
3. Origin of damage of cave art. Presided by I. Barandiaran, J. Ph. Rigaud and P. Ucko.
4. Interests of the research: Documentation and conservation. Presided by E. Ripoll and J. Ph. Rigaud.
5. Visitors and rock art: Copies, cinema, audiovisual means. Presided by G. Bosinski and J. Ph. Rigaud.

One afternoon was dedicated to excursions to some of the most important caves in Perigord.

The summaries of the communications were published and distributed at the opening of the Colloque.

Mr. J. Ph. Rigaud and his collaborators should be congratulated for this succesfull meeting. It focused our attention not only to the new important discoveries in France and Spain but also to new methods of modern documentation, protection and conservation of the earliest cave art.

Jan Jelínek

A REPORT ON THE RESEARCH INTO BAROVÁ CAVE (MORAVIAN KARST)

The Anthropos Institute of the Moravian Museum in Brno has undertaken an extensive research into the Pleistocene settlement and environmental changes of the Moravian Karst. The research programme has been launched many years ago and it concentrates on the cave entrance areas, often used as habitats.

An excavation of the debris and sediments of the entrance of Barová Cave was started in 1982 in co-operation with the Archaeological Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. The locality is situated in the central part of the Moravian Karst, some 150 m from Býčí skála cave. The Barová cave was discovered already in 1947 by Dr. A. Sobol. The following excavations realized by a group of amateur speleologists near the northern side of the cave's ante-nave discovered numerous pottery fragments and bone tools of the peoples of the Jevišovice and linear (Danubian) Cultures, and in the lower layers rare finds of ornamented pebbles, broken reindeer antlers and bone tools.

Further control trench and the subsequent research concentrated on explaining the chronology of the occupation of the site in the Holocene. This particular layer is formed by stony, almost non-corroded waste and its maximum thickness does not exceed 15 cm (Holocene basis). It consists of fine, slightly abraded debris mixed with clayey filling of diverse character. The finds discovered in the A_0 and A sectors document that the cave abri was temporarily

inhabited in the Middle Ages, in the period of the Horákov Culture (Hallstat time) [as documented by pottery and osteological material finds], and also in the Eneolithic Jevišovice Culture (silex cores, osteological material and pottery). In the Neolithic time the abri and the entrance area of the cave were visited by the people of the linear (Danubian) Culture (many pottery fragments and two pottery kilns in front of the cave).

In the years 1984—1985 the research concentrated on explaining the main patterns of settling of the locality in Late Pleistocene.

The final stage of the last glacial is documented by numerous hornstone flakes and by rare finds of crystal tools. The clayey filling of the debris has been affected by a pedogenetic process and it strongly differs from the pure loess in the undersoil and from the older loess sediments containing numerous lenticular sand formations. The loess deposits have yielded hornstone tools of the Magdalenian type (sector A and B) and the femur of a young Coelodonta antiquitatis. The sequence of layers continues with a complicated loess development redeposed loesses containing limestone blocks measuring up to 60 cm; the latter are on the floor of the section at the depth of 520 cm. The older loess layers have been interrupted in front of the cave by a 180 cm deep wedge-shaped depression filled with fine debris of sharp edges mixed with game bones (Rangifer tarandus, Equus sp., Lepus sp., Alopex lagopus) and with Magdalenian tools. The microfauna points to cold climate.

In order to study the whole section in a complex way numerous samples were taken for micromorphological evaluation of the spils and sediments, to determine their chemical composition and granulometry, the presence of heavy metals and the pollen content. Quantitative samples are taken to separate the remains of the malacofauna.

At the next stage the research will concentrate on the "ante-nave" of the cave. Control probes have revealer that this part of the cave was also inhabited in the Magdalenian times.

Luděk Seitl, Jiří Svoboda

OBITUARY

FRANZ FILCE LEEK

A sad news reached and touched us that Franz Filce Leek sudenly died from an anerysm, following an operation on his vascular system on January 26, 1985. Born on February 5, 1903 in London, he studied at Kings College Hospital, London. He became dental surgeon and was appointed to Lincoln County Hospital, later he continued his practice at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, till 1971 when he retired.

Deeply interested in ancient cultures, he began as a mature man to start a second career with the study of archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College, London. Later he specialized in Egyptology under the guidance of doctor Veronica Šeton Williams and finished his studies in 1963.

As dental surgeon he focused his interest to the research of the Ancient Egyptian dental pathology which was neglected in Egyptology since the pioneering work of Sir Armand Ruffer. He analyzed several series of crania in various museums, lastly materials from the mastabas around the Pyramid of Cheops at Giza, following mainly caries and its sequelae, dental attrition, calculus and bite. To elucidate these conditions he strated microscopic studies of Ancient Egyptian bread and payed also attention to honey, the main sweeting agent of the Ancient Egyptians.

Taking in his hands hundreds of Ancient Egyptian skulls he was struck by the fact that even in members of the highest social stratum he could not detect any evidence of dental interventions. Therefore he began to question the widely accepted view of an early existence of the dentistry as one of the specialized branches of the Ancient Egyptian medicine.

In 1968 the coffin of Tutcankhamun in his grave at the west bank of the Nile at Luxor was re-opened and TV-film was made by the BBC-2 producer P. Johnstone, who invited F. F. Leek together with professor of anatomy of the Liverpool University R. G. Harrison to act as scientific advisers. On that occasion he re-examined the age of the King (16—17 years) and the state of his dentition. Basing on this experience he could publish a monograph on the Tutcankhamun's human remains using valuable extracts from H. Carter's diary and manuscripts of D. E. Derry with Leek's additions and comments and splendid photographs by H. Burton.

In 1974—1979 he became member of a multidisciplinary team of the Manchester Mummy Project. He contributed by his examination of the dental health of the Manchester mummies and assisted in unwrapping one of them in 1975. He helped the main organizer doctor R. David in preparing two very successfull international symposia "Science in Egyptology" in 1979 and 1984 and became one of its top speakers.

While examining series of Ancient Egyptian skulls, F. F. Leek got a side interest — the study of the technique of brain removal during embalming. He reached new conclusions which were at variance with the traditionally accepted views of Herodotos. Pursuing his search for mummies, he even examined mummified fish.

F. F. Leek was an active member of several British and international scientific societies. His merits in promoting palaeo-odontology were recognized by his nomination into honorary membership of the Swedish Academy of Medical Sciences, of the Dental Association of South Africa, of the Peruvian Orthodontic Society, of the Peruan Academy of Stomatology and of the British Society of Antiquaries.

Everyone who knew Filce as a brilliant speaker will miss him, his enthusiasm, devotion to science and his important conclusions in all future meeting. In the same time, he will be remembered as a charming man and compagnion with a lasting optimistic smile.

Eugen Strouhal