

and evolution in the past and recent populations". The fourth section was to deal with "Molecular approach to primate phylogeny" but to the shortage of papers it was attached to other groups. The fifth section was dedicated to "Socio-biological approach to human evolution" the sixth dealt with "Applied anthropology". A special session was dedicated to dermatoglyphs, in spite of the fact that a few days before the opening of the Congress in Florence the town of Poppi (Arezzo) was the venue of a workshop and symposium on methods applied to dermatoglyphic studies.

From Czechoslovakia 24 anthropologists attended the congress. The nine papers presented by Czechoslovak participants had a very positive echo.

The next congress of the European Anthropological Association will take place in Lisbon, Portugal.

Milan Sítoukal

POST-CONGRESS SYMPOSIUM ON UPPER PALEOLITHIC AND MESOLITHIC POPULATIONS OF EUROPE AND OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN IN PISA

In connection with the IVth Congress of the European Anthropological Association the Institute of Anthropology and Human Palaeontology of the University of Pisa organized a specialized symposium on the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Populations of Europe and the Mediterranean Basin. The event took place between September 8-10, 1984 and was attended by 25 renowned specialists from 8 countries. It was a typical multidisciplinary session at which open problems were confronted mainly by archaeologists and physical anthropologists.

Most scholars agree that the differences between the physical types of the Mesolithic and Neolithic populations are connected with one of the most important changes in human evolution — with transition to food producing economy. This transition is manifested both by the reduction of dental system, and by correlated craniometric changes. The reduction is mostly explained mechanistically, as a direct consequence of softer food, not requiring such a large chewing surface as the preparation of food consisting mostly of meat in the earlier periods. Some experts believe, however, that it had been a direct consequence of the growth of the population density in the process of sedentarization. Certain samples document that this transition was not connected with the reduction of size only, but also with considerable changes in shape. Morphological changes of such a degree are — in the view of certain authors — hard to be explained through mere microevolution caused by ecological changes and they postulate therefore the migration of various human groups. The increased variability of the size in the Neolithic period, as compared with the Mesolithic, is explained by the growth of isolation (due to genetic drift or selection processes), however, it was not the only factor, as we shall mention further.

The dispute of long standing between advocates of the origin of the European Neolithic populations by migration seemingly advancing along the major rivers, namely Danube, and between the supporters of the theory of autochthonous development (in the recent years documented among other regions also in Moravia) seems to end in a compromise agreeing with both views. Thus e.g. the populations of Lepenski Vir and Vlasac in the transition period between the Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic show the coexistence of two distinct morphological types. The advancing Neolithic population obviously did not exterminate the previous Mesolithic people, but penetrated step by step the local, autochthonous population. The recent Neolithic finds from the southern part of the Sinai Peninsula also show that on the margin of the Fertile Crescent, in which agricultural traditions reach back to the very end of the Epipalaeolithic period, there were still population that had not passed to food production. Morphologically they are very close to the recent Beduins of the southern Sinai Peninsula and of the Negev Desert. The existence of groups in various stages of the socioeconomic and physical development would be a more plausible explanation of the above-mentioned increase of variability of the Neolithic populations.

Other papers dealt with the reconstruction of the social structure of the Mesolithic groups (language groups, tribes, bands) or with trying to determine the degree of endogamy provided that the density of the population was sufficient. There were even speculations on language groups and ethnicity on the basis of the analysis of decorative elements.

New Mesolithic material was recently found in the Uzzo Cave in Sicily. It is remarkably homogeneous, showing small sexual dimorphism, and the percentage of dental caries is surprisingly high. Another paper contained a survey of the hitherto known Palaeolithic and Mesolithic burials from Italy. In the postcranial material from the Arenne Candide Cave Epigravettian and Neolithic individuals were compared and it appeared that both the length and robusticity of the lower limbs had been reduced, while the circumference of clavicles and of the bones of the upper limbs had increased, the length of the latter, however, remained the same in the Neolithic as it was in the Mesolithic period. These changes are related to agricultural activities and to a more sedentary way of life. The study of three geographical samples of Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic skulls (Western, Central and Southern Europe) revealed diurnal variability in the robusticity and in the proportions of the face, probably as the result of climatic adaptation.

Eugen Strouhal

5TH EUROPEAN MEETING OF THE PALAEO-PATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION IN SIENA

Two years after the successful congress in Middelburg, Netherlands, the European Palaeopathologists and several guests from the overseas met again in Siena, Italy, on September 3-4, 1984. It was a great advantage that the Siena meeting immediately preceded the 4th Congress of the European Anthropological Association in Florence, so that many anthropologists interested in palaeopathology were able to attend. The Organizing Committee of the meeting was headed by Professor V. Capocchi, anatomist at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the Siena University, assisted by (Mrs.) Dr. E. Rabino Massi from Turin. The Scientific Committee, comprising a number of leading palaeopathologists from various European countries was chaired by Professor A. Ascenzi from Rome. The sessions were held in the modern "Aula Magna" of the Le Scotte polyclinic, belonging to the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the Siena University.

The papers were arranged into several thematic groups. The opening address was delivered by the main organizer of the life of the Palaeopathology Association, the agile Mrs. E. Cockburn. She spoke about the pressure groups in the USA, Israel, Egypt and Australia, culling for burying again the human remains excavated at archaeological sites. This would lead to the destruction of priceless materials that can offer further scientific evidence in the future. The only solution is to secure really respectful dealing with the human remains in the laboratories of scientific institutes. The American Anthropological Association has already voiced its attitude against re-burial and the Palaeopathology Association joins it.

The first block of papers concentrated on the application of new methods in palaeopathology. Of these new methods we may quote crystallography used for the analysis of pleural adhesions found in male skeletal remains coming from a medieval burial ground in Switzerland, analysis with the help of a scanning electron microscope used for studying porotic changes and cribra orbitalis in the Avar populations in Hungary, and a number of others.

Another group of lectures dealt with caries in the ancient populations of Cyprus, Egypt, Italy, Ireland, in *Australopithecus* and *Homo habilis* from Olduvai. Several lectures presented pathological finds from various historical periods and from various countries, including finds from the Qurgumma mausoleum in Cairo, from the St. Domenico Maggiore Abbey in Naples and from the skeletal remains of soldiers and sailors of Mary Rose, the recently salvaged flagship of Henry VIII, or from the Merton Priory in England. A special section focused on palaeopathological finds in Etrurian skeletal remains. The Etrurians once inha-

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 Aleš 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