

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. Jozefy general secretary, and M. Sloukal 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 Střitín 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 detachable 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 Ethiopian 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

paper presented by L. Török from Hungary. The author focused on cultural influence and political relations, namely between Kush and Egypt. He reconstructed the contemporary views on Kush in ancient Egypt and in the works of ancient authors. He documented the trade contacts of the ancient Kush by presenting a selection of imported artifacts found in Merotic burials and in the archaeological layers of the Capital City Meroe. These documents are rather one-sided, we still do not know much about Merotic exports. The contributed papers presented by other participants completed the topic. E. Y. Kornysheva (U.S.S.R.) dealt with political relations between Rome and the Merotic Empire on the basis of inscriptions on potsherds found in Dodecachoin (territory in the northernmost part of the Egyptian Nubia). S. J. Bersina (U.S.S.R.) analysed the content of the Papyrus of Milan No. 40 containing precious information about a hitherto unknown battle between Roman and Merotic forces between 89 and 92 A.D. A. K. Vinogradov (U.S.S.R.) commented on a revised translation of Diodorus' text on the election of the Merotic kings. I. Hofmann et al. (Austria) dealt with the migration of Nubian tribes in the Nile Valley. L. P. Kirwan (United Kingdom) concentrated on the role of Meroe as capital city and on the transfer of its function to Sobat on the Blue Nile in connection with the constitution of Alodia (Alwa) following the fall of the Merovian Empire (about the year 360 A.D.) and F. W. Hinkel (G.D.R.) dealt with the problem of modules and harmonious proportion in the Merotic architecture. Other papers concentrated on Kush's external relations, namely with Axum (an empire in the territory of the present-day Ethiopia), Sudan (A. M. Abdalla), U.K. and Kenya (N. Chittick) and Italy (R. Fattovich) and with the Western Oasis (E. Segueni, Italy), and perhaps also with Yemen, the Arabian Peninsula in general and with Lesser Asia (P. Scholz, Federal Republic of Germany).

The second block of topics was concerned with the application of mathematical methods in archaeology. The invited review paper delivered by F. Hintze (German Democratic Republic) was an extended version of the paper presented by the same author at the pre-Congress consultations mostly of scholars from the socialist countries, held in Steinforia (G.D.R.) in the autumn of the year 1983. He spoke about a selection of various statistical and computer methods suitable for the solution of problems connected with the history of the Merovian Empire. Practical application of statistics on dating the archaeological layers with the help of the relative frequency of pottery and potsherds was documented by W. Y. Adams (U.S.A.) on the example of processing the rich material found in the Kasr Imbrim layers. N. A. Pomerantseva (U.S.S.R.) dealt with relations between the composition of the architecture and sculptures of the Lion Temple in Musawwarat es-Sufra. D. Hartling (G.D.R.) classified the pottery of the same locality. S. Wenig (G.D.R.) presented general classification of the Kushitic temples and L. Török (Hungary) considered — from the position of art historian — the limits of mathematical methods. He rightly emphasized, that the hitherto existing shortcomings due to the extremely narrow material basis of the Merotic studies cannot be overcome, not even with the help of the most outstanding methods.

The third topical area, linguistic approach to Merotic studies, was opened by the invited review paper presented by R. Thelwall (Ireland) under the name "Merovian and African Linguistic Prehistory". He focused on the relations of the Merovian language to the languages of the Eastern Sudanese group, forming part of the Nilotic-Saharan area of languages. This widely-based synthesis was supported by A. M. Abdalla by documenting the Napatian-Merovian linguistic continuity. We must add that in spite of a number of partial achievements in identifying the meaning of Merovian words namely of titles, the Merovian language and its structure remain unknown, notwithstanding the efforts and the steadily growing number of Merovian words in the Paris data bank.

Under the name of "ethnoarchaeology" a quasi new scientific discipline has been arising in the U.S.A. in the recent years; it explains the archaeological finds through ethnographic parallels. The procedure, however, is not new, it has been used by in archaeology since many years. The invited review paper in this group was delivered by T. Ken-

dall and it dealt with the ethnoarchaeology of the Merotic studies, documenting this approach on several examples of analysing several representations of Merotic objects, explaining the meaning of scars — marking the members of various Sudanese tribes with regards to similar scars on a Merotic *ba* head, the deformation of animal horns characteristic of certain Sudanese ethnic groups and finally he dealt also with possible ethnic interpretations of various historic texts. Ethnic aspects prevailed also in other papers. A. Vila (France) successfully distinguished two ethnic groups in the archaeological material found in various Nubian burials. Chronologically the two groups cover Merovian and post-Merovian (Balán) populations. P. Lenoble (France) compared the differences in the cultural development of the Merovian communities in the regions of Shendi and Khartoum. E. Strouhal (Czechoslovakia) arrived at the conclusion — on the basis of comparing the cultural, biological and behavioristic characters of the populations of Waadi Kitna and Kalábshi on the one side, and of Sayala, on the other, that the two groups ethnically differ, in spite of the fact that they are usually classed with the same cultural group X (Balanian culture).

The afternoon hours were reserved for the sessions of a section dealing with the latest achievements of the field research. F. W. Hinkel (G.D.R.) informed about the progress of the reconstruction and restoration work in the royal pyramids in Meroe. M. Hainsworth (U.K.) informed about the inscription of the king found last year in Kasr Imbrim. Others spoke about the latest discoveries of the French expedition to Sedeinga (C. Berger), about the results of the excavations realized by the Italian mission in Djebel Barkal (I. Liverani, C. Bostico), about the Swiss research in Kerma (Ch. Bonnet and S. M. Ahmed), about the latest season of the British research of Kasr Imbrim (W. Y. Adams), about the finds of textiles in Kasr Imbrim (N. A. Adams, both U.S.A.). Much interest was attracted also by a study on the clay figures from Kadada (B. V. Bothmer, U.S.A.) and by the Merovian burials from Geili (I. Canavea, Italy).

The numerous presence of researchers from the socialist countries, the papers they contributed and their frequent contributions to the discussion have documented their leading position in the Merotic studies, thanks to the efforts of the Institute of Egyptology, Sudanese archaeology and Merotic Studies at the Humboldt University in Berlin (German Democratic Republic). Since the year 1973 the institute publishes an international periodical called *Merotica*; the 10th issue of *Merotica* contained in extenso all the papers read at the congress. The exposition of colour photographs on Merovian architecture was prepared by S. Wenig one of the leading scientific workers of the institute.

In conclusion it has been decided to hold the next Congress of Merotic Studies in Khartoum. The four sections of the forthcoming congress will comprise Dodecachoino, Merovian burial customs, Convention and Invention in the Merovian arts and finally the Influence of the Egyptian religion on the Merovian society.

Eugene Strouhal

NEW INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER ON VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY

The Commission on Visual Anthropology of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences invites submissions for its forthcoming international newsletter (first issue to appear in spring 1985). The newsletter will publish articles in three languages (English, French and Spanish). Substantive articles should not exceed 15 pages typescript. Particularly important are reports on ongoing or forthcoming field projects, summaries of institutional activities and interests, individual queries about training or project development and reports on meetings and festivals. Please send all correspondence to Asen Balkei, Département d'anthropologie, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, succursale A, Montréal (Québec) Canada, H3C 3J7.

Terms of reference

The Commission on Visual Anthropology provides an international forum for the circulation of ideas and resources