A NEW ROCK ART PERIODICAL

The Australian Rock Art Research Association (AURA) has published in May 1985 the first number of its new periodical called *"Rock Art Research"*. It is published twice a year in May and November, the retail price is A $ 12.00. The founding editor is Robert G. Bednarik, P. O. Box 216, Caulfield South Vic. 31 62, Australia.

The first number has 72 pages with the following papers:

Editorial.

H. P. McNickle (New Zealand): Variation in style and distribution of rock engravings in the Pilbara region (Western Australia).

J. L. Dickman (California): An image digitising and storage system for use in rock art research.

G. D. Aslin (South Australia) and R. G. Bednarik (Victoria): Karlie-ngoinpool Cave: a preliminary report.

G. S. Gibbons (New South Wales): Research needs for physical conservation of rock art.

There follows special section on Reviews and Abstracts and on divers News.

We wish to this new journal long life. *Jan Jelínek*

THE CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE LATE GLACIAL PERIOD IN THE ODER RIVER BASIN AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF CENTRAL EUROPE. RYDZYNA (POLAND), SYMPOSIUM 30th MAY—1st JUNE, 1984.

This scientific meeting was organized by J. M. Burdukiewicz (Wrocław) and M. Kobusiewicz (Poznań) with the aim to 1) present the actual state of research of the Late Glacial in Oder Basin to the international public, and 2) to draw comparisons with other parts of Europe, with special emphasis upon the North European Plain. Both organizers, together with the collaborating geologists and palaeobotanists, informed about their recent fieldworks in the Oder Basin: the Kopanica Valley (J. Burdukiewicz, K. Brodzikowski, A. J. Van Loon, A. Kowalkowski) and the Middle Oder Basin (M. Kobusiewicz, B. Nowaczyk). The geographical position of the sites was demonstrated during a one-day excursion.

The invited archaeologists summarized the state of Upper Palaeolithic and Late Palaeolithic researches in other regions: P. Bockelmann (Schleswick/Holstein), B. Schmider (Seine Basin), E. Petersen (Denmark), B. Gramsch (region between the Oder and Middle Elbe rivers), S. Veil (Neuwied Basin), S. Vencl (Bohemia), J. Svoboda (Moravia), J. K. Kozłowski, B. Ginter and K. Sobczyk (Upper Vistula Basin), D. Stapert, N. Arts and J. Deeben (Holland: the sites of Oldeholtwolde and Sweikhuizen). The discussions concentrated on contradictions in explanation of the excavated situations ("kshemenitsa's", dwelling structures and their social meaning), on the problems of Late Glacial stratigraphy and of the climatic evolution. The general state of research and its most actual problems were summarized in the concluding lecture by R. Schild (Main trends in the study of the Late Glacial in Central Europe).

The meeting was sponsored by the Archaeological comission of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Branch

CONFERENCE ON HUMAN POLYMORPHISM IN REINHARDSBRUNN (G.D.R.)

The 18th conference of the Section Anthropology of the Biological Society of the German Democratic Republic (founded in 1960) was held on October 13—17, 1983 in Reinhardsbrunn (Thuringia). This meeting was organized by professor H. Bach, chairman of the anthropological section, in cooperation with the Society of Human Genetics in the G.D.R. There were some 110 participants (including 17 colleagues from Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, India and U.S.A.), representing an interdisciplinary group of scientists.

Twenty-six papers and a poster session (with 14 posters) focussed on the topic of the conference: the anthropological and genetical aspects of human polymorphism. The paper of H. Bach introduced the subject and the different forms of polymorphism. The molecular-biological base of the immuno-globuline system (E. Scheibe), evolutionary aspects of blood group polymorphism (W. Göhler) and a report on detailed structures of chromosomes and their aberrations (V. Beensen) were presented on the genetical background of the topic. Main aspects of the conference also included the genetics of normal morphological traits (V. P. Chopra), the way to analyse the genetical base of characters (K. Sommer), methodological aspects in studies of the genetics of growth (Ch. Susanne), sensitive phases in the postnatal development (H.-A. Freye) and the influence of environment on human ontogenesis (H. Walter). There were papers dealing with various problems of growth: U. Jaeger presented results of longitudinal studies on children from Jena and P. Bergman that on 200 twins from Poland; the development of body height and weight of children from Czechoslovakia was analysed by K. Hajniš; problems in studying menarche in Hungary were dealt with by G. Farkas, while Pantó/O. Eiben examined the influence of socioeconomical factors on the development of children in the same country. Variability and changes in body composition of children were discussed in two papers by D. Johnsen and O. Eiben. The variability of body measurements of adults from the German Democratic Republic was demonstrated by H. Greil. Polymorphism in fossil hominids as well as in prehistoric and early historic populations was also discussed at the conference. R. Protsch summarized the results for Homo sapiens neanderthalensis and Homo sapiens sapiens and H. Ullrich analysed the polymorphic and polytypic structure of Homo erectus. A. Bach and H. Bach illustrated polymorphism in neolithic through to recent populations of the Middle Elbe-Saale-Area. The paper of G. Ziegelmayer devoted attention to the question of possibilities and limits of anthropological methods analysing pre- and early historic populations with regard to morphological variability, morphological trends and group polymorphism. The subjects of the posters spanned a wide spectrum of investigations, mainly on special problems and in recent populations. The conference was completed by an attractive social programme (e.g. music party in castle Reinhardsbrunn, excursion to the Inselsberg). The conference proved a success both at the scientific and social levels, and this success will be a promoting factor for future joint meetings.

Some of the papers held at the conference will be published in "Biologische Rundschau", others in the "Tagungsbericht der 18. Arbeitstatung der Sektion Anthropologie