

Z. Kaič and col. (Yugoslavia) followed the effects of X-chromosomal aberrations on the morphology of the teeth roots.

S. Plavec and D. Plavec (Yugoslavia) followed high blood pressure and the effect of external factors on children in the 7—15 year age bracket. They documented that certain environmental factors can influence the essential hypertension in children and in adolescents. Of utmost importance are prevention and mental hygiene.

M. Prokopec and L. Dutková (Czechoslovakia) dealt with the frequency of spectacle bearing, left-handedness, number of missed teaching hours and with the character of physical education of children and youth in the Czech Socialist Republic. At 18 years almost one in four youngsters wear spectacles and 9 per cent of the boys and 7 per cent of girls are left-handed, in the recent 10 years the number of re-trained left-handers is on the decrease, roughly 1/2 of the schoolchildren miss less than 50 hours a year, girls have more long-term absences than boys, but with the years these absences show an upward trend in both sexes. 1/3 of boys and 10 per cent of girls say that they carry out some sort of recreational sporting activities. Professor Bielicki has recommended to consider also social aspects in the detailed analysis of the above characteristics.

Lj. Radovančević (Yugoslavia) presented two papers. The first paper concentrated on the results of a neuropsychiatric examination of non-professional drivers older 65 years (intelligence-tests, motoric tests, qualification, accident rate, driving years, etc.). The paper was oriented on the psychogeriatric problems of road safety. It documented the slowing down of the reaction of drivers in old age. It appeared also that the higher IQ of drivers has virtually no influence on the number of road accidents caused by them.

The other paper was concerned with prophylactic and geropsychiatric measures to cut the number of road accidents. The author based his work on the fact that the highest number of road accidents is committed by young inexperienced drivers, closely followed by the group of old drivers with reduced speed of reaction. The paper is of great topical value as the number of old-age drivers is steadily growing in all countries.

M. T. Smith and R. G. Harvey (United Kingdom) studied the genetic relationship of the inhabitants of Cornwall. On the basis of ABO, MnSs, Rhesus, Duffy and Kell blood groups concluded that the inhabitants of Cornwall are biologically not related with the Celtic populations of western Europe, they are genetically much closer to the Britons than to Continental Europeans.

I. Skrinjarič and col. (Yugoslavia) studied the heredity of Carabelli's trait on the molars in twins, in the first and second dentition. While in the Eskimos this character has not been observed, its frequency varies greatly in other populations, from 5.7 per cent in Arizona Indians (Kraus, 1951), to 90 per cent in Europeans (Scott, 1980). The authors studied the frequency of this character in 95 pairs of twins, 35 of them monozygotie. They distinguished 4 types of Carabelli's trait (according to Kraus) : 0 = absence of the trait, 1 = orifice, 2 = groove, 3 = small trait, 4 = big trait. The total occurrence amounted to 68 per cent (58 per cent in girls and 78 per cent in boys). The monozygotie twins showed a higher degree of concordance (96,4 per cent), as compared with 60,5 per cent in dizygotie twins.

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#### SYMPOSIUM "FIFTY YEARS OF POLISH EXCAVATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN"

On the occasion of the half-century anniversary of the first Polish-French archaeological excavations at Tell Edfu in Upper Egypt in 1936, interrupted by World War II and resuming new activity at Mirmeki in Crimea in 1956, a festive symposium was organized by the University of Warsaw during 23—25 June 1986. Most attention was devoted to the spectacular development of Polish research in the years following the foundation of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the Warsaw University in 1959.

The opening ceremony of the symposium was introduced by the addresses of prof. G. Białkowski, the rector of the

University, and of the president of the honorary committee prof. H. Jabłoński. Directors and representatives of several foreign institutions, collaborating with the Polish Centre, delivered their greeting addresses, stressing the extent and quality of the Polish share in the international research of the Mediterranean basin. This was followed by a lecture by prof. A. Gieysztor on the relations between archaeology and history.

The inaugural session paid homage to the memory of prof. Kazimierz Michałowski, the founder of the Polish school of Mediterranean archaeology (M. L. Bernhard). With his name also the survey of the 27-year-activity of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology has been connected (W. A. Daszewski). This activity covered various sites in Egypt, as Tell Atrib, Alexandria, Cairo (mausoleum of Emir Qurqumas), Naqlun in Faiyum, Thebes (Deir el-Bahri, tomb of Ramses III in the Valley of the Kings), Dabod in Nubia and Qasr Ibrim (cooperation with the Egypt Exploration Society, London). In Sudan, sites of Faras, Old Wadi Halfa, Old Dongola and Kadero were investigated. Polish archaeologists worked successfully also in Syria (Palmyra), Cyprus (Nea Paphos), and Iraq (Nimrud, valley of Euphrate and Tigris).

Session on Egyptian archaeology was introduced by a balance of its state and further perspectives (J. Leclant), followed by a survey of the Polish research at Deir el-Bahri (J. Lipińska). This research consisted of discovery of paleolithic workshops in the vicinity of the site, of the reconstruction of the temple of Queen Hatshepsut and of the investigation of the debris between it and the temple of Mentuhotep, leading to a discovery of a temple of Thutmose III, whose reconstruction was started. Another report dealt with the excavation and restoration of the temple of King Sety at Gurna by the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo (R. Stadelmann). Recent discoveries of new series of papyri in the temples of Queen Khentkaus (1980) and of King Raneferef (1981) at Abusir by the Czechoslovak Institute of Egyptology yielded not only new sources to the history and economy of royal funeral temples of the 5th dynasty, but also many important notions to the general history of this period (P. Posener-Krieger). A special lecture analysed historical and archaeological problems of Lower Nubia during Thutmose times (T. Säve-Söderbergh).

Sessions on the Greek and Roman World concerned the hellenistic period of Cyprus (V. Karageorghis), a report on recent restoration work performed by the local museum at Palmyra (Ch. Assad), a survey of the Polish excavations in the Valley of the Tombs at the same site (M. Gawlikowski) and reports on new discoveries in the Bosphorus area by Russian (I. Saverkina) and Polish archaeologists (Z. Sztetyło).

Prehistoric archaeology was represented by the account on Polish surveys at Faiyum, in the region between Faras and Wadi Halfa in Nubia, in the valleys of rivers Atbara and Kasala in Sudan and in the Euphrate valley in Iraq (W. Chmielewski). The Neolithic settlement and burial ground at Kadero (mid-5th millennium B.C.) showed seasonal economy based on cattle breeding and cultivation of sorghum and finger millet (L. Krzyżaniak). New site of the Prepottery Neolithic dated 7th millennium B. C. was discovered in the plain under the Taurus (S. Kozłowski).

The last session was devoted to the results of conservation of monuments and preservation of archaeological sites in Egypt (A. Kadri), Iraq (M. Damerji) and Turkey (E. Akurgal) as well as in sites, excavated by Polish missions (Z. Wysocki). Specialists of the Polish restoration school, experienced in restoration of buildings and whole towns in Poland, start their work immediately after completion of archaeological research and contribute thus to the preservation of monuments and sites.

*Eugen Strouhal*

#### 6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR NUBIAN STUDIES

Four years after the last conference at Heidelberg students of culture of ancient Nubia gathered from 11 till 16 August 1986 at Uppsala (Sweden). The meeting was organized by the Institute of Egyptology of the Uppsala University (professors T. Säve-Söderbergh, R. Holthoer and

T. Hägg.) Among the more than a hundred participants were archaeologists, historians, art historians, church historians, architects, linguists as well as physical and social anthropologists. For the first time at this kind of conference also Islamic and modern Nubian culture received attention by archaeologists and cultural anthropologists. Thus the meeting became a multidisciplinary one, allowing exchange of notions and fruitful discussions between representatives of different scientific branches.

The presentation of about a hundred papers without necessity to cut discussions was made possible by prepublication of all main papers in extenso and of abstracts of other communications. Main papers were delivered in the morning sessions to full audience, other communications in two or three parallel sections in the afternoon. Two evening sessions, open also for general public, were reserved to richly illustrated excavation reports.

First session of the main papers dealt with classification and interpretation of ancient Nubian cultures stretching from the Late Palaeolithic and Mesolithic to the C-Group, Pan-Grave and Kerma cultures. The last one emerges in the light of recent research of its capital city by the Geneva archaeological team as a real African kingdom of its own culture and splendour.

Second session was devoted to the study of Nubian Christianity with respect to the differences observed between its Northern and Southern areas, which were preshadowed by a similar distinction during the Meroitic Period. This theme was discussed from various aspects, viz. of archaeology and history, architecture, architectural decoration, painting and mortuary habits. This was followed by special lectures on the Nubian church history and a linguistic analysis of translations of Greek texts into Old Nubian language.

Third session on Islamic archaeology of Nubia consisted of a single but substantial paper by W. Y. Adams, containing an introductory survey of monuments worth to be investigated in the future.

Fourth session presented recent development of culture and language of the Nubians, both living in Egypt and in Sudan. The impact of Arab language is heavy, nevertheless, signs of cultural renaissance were also observed. According to a statement of a Nubian scientist Ali Osman, Nubians are mostly successfully mastering several problems threatening their identity.

Among the reports on recent excavations there were lectures on the fruitful research of the British Institute in East Africa at Soba East, on the Polish excavations at Old Dongola, on new results of the Italian mission at Gebel Barkal and on the spectacular identification of two X-Group temples at Qasr Ibrim by the team of the Egypt Exploration Society (London).

Other communications dealt with most variegated themes of Nubian archaeology, history, history of art, architecture, history of church and language. Concerning physical anthropology, there were reports on the investigation of Neolithic human remains from Kadero (E. Promińska), on the multivariable analysis of the Old Kerma series from Kerma (Ch. Simon) and on the reconstruction of family structure of the Wadi Qitna population on the basis of archaeological and demographical data (E. Strouhal).

The programme of the conference was enlivened by a reception given by the rector magnificus of the Uppsala university and by an excursion to places of historical and cultural interest in the region north of Uppsala, combined with a social dinner.

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