

in Darwin — the most important in the history of rock art research. It was attended by 343 participants from throughout the world. Over 200 delegates represented 39 Australian towns and 4 towns of New Zealand. Asia sent 17 scientists (10 of whom came from the state of California). North America was represented by 60 participants, 56 of them from the U.S.A., of whom 34 came from the state of California. Canada was represented by only 4 members. South America was represented by 3 persons: one each from Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia. Africa was represented by 5 participants — from Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe and the S.A.R. Of the 35 European participants, 11 represented France, 5 Great Britain, 4 Italy, 3 Sweden, 4 Spain, and 1 Czechoslovakia.

Almost 200 papers were presented in eleven subject-oriented symposia. Debate and the interchange of ideas were strongly encouraged, and were intensive throughout the congress. Participation by traditional custodians of rock art was conspicuous, and Aboriginal speakers involved in the management of cultural resources presented papers.

The subjects of the individual symposia covered: *A* — ROCK ART STUDIES IN THE OLD WORLD; *B* — ROCK ART STUDIES IN THE AMERICAS; *C* — ROCK ART STUDIES IN AUSTRALIA AND OCEANIA; *D* — THE ROCK ART OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA; *E/F* — RECORDING AND STANDARDISATION IN ROCK ART STUDIES; *G* — ROCK ART AND PREHISTORY; *H* — ROCK ART AND ETHNOGRAPHY; *K* — ARCHAEO-PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF ROCK ART; *L* — PICTURES AND HUMAN BEHAVIOUR; *M/N* — CONSERVATION AND SITE MANAGEMENT; *O* — RE-TOUCH: AN OPTION TO CONSERVATION?

One of the immediate tangible outcomes of the Darwin congress emerged from a meeting of representatives of the world's ten major rock art organisations, held immediately after the congress. That meeting had only been arranged to discuss international cooperation, but it decided spontaneously to form an international federation of rock art research organisations immediately. This federation already exists, and a full announcement will appear in the next issue of ROCK ART RESEARCH (RAR), which was selected as the federation's official journal. It will certainly play a decisive role in harnessing our international efforts in this field, and in pursuing the interests of the new discipline.

An exhibit of over sixty traditional Aboriginal bark paintings had been assembled in the congress venue, including some examples of up to 5 m in height — the largest ever made. A substantial exhibition of posters and photographs, featuring rock art in all continents, was held during the congress, as well as a publications display. Each evening, rock art films were shown for three hours in the main congress hall, again including entries from all continents. In the congress centre, a 5 m long artificial rock wall had been erected, and throughout the congress week a traditional rock artist from Arnhem Land (one of the few tribal rock artists left in the world) demonstrated rock painting skills.

Extensive field trips were conducted both before and after the congress. The major ones were to Kakadu National Park and Arnhem Land, the Victoria and Keep River districts, Kimberley and Pilbara. The largest of the field trips involved between 80 and 90 participants, the longest covered almost 5 000 km in several weeks. Hundreds of rock art sites were visited during these expedition-style field trips, providing participants with an appreciation of the richness and variety of northern Australian rock art.

Several smaller events, in some way relating to prehistoric art, were attached to the AURA Congress, or were at least timed to coincide with it. They included five meetings held at the congress venue (the First General Meeting of AURA, which adopted AURA's constitution; the 1988 CAR Meeting, chaired by Professors Anati and Beltrán; a meeting of the ICOM Working Group on Rock Art Conservation, chaired by Dr. Rosenfeld; a meeting of the editors of the congress proceedings called by R. G. Bednarik, Co-chairman of the First AURA Congress and Convener of IFRARO; and the founding meeting of the International Federation of Rock Art Research Organisations, also convened by R. Bednarik), the Fifth International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies (held concurrent with the congress) and the Eighth National Aboriginal Sites Authorities Committee Meeting (held during the week preceding the congress week). Numerous

congress participants availed themselves of the opportunity to attend these separate meetings.

M. Kšica

A MEETING ON PROBLEMS OF THE QUATERNARY RESEARCH

A special symposium dealing with the Quaternary period was held in Brno on November 10, 1988. The event was sponsored by the Anthropos Institute of the Moravian Museum in co-operation with the Dept. of Geology and Palaeontology of the Faculty of Natural Science of J. E. Purkyně University in Brno, and it focused on the present state of research of the Quaternary. The regular contacts of the specialists of the above institutes and the systematic co-operation between the Czechoslovak and foreign researchers had resulted in the idea to convoke specialists of participating disciplines engaged in the problems of the Quaternary period.

The symposium was attended by specialists from the branches of Quaternary geology, Quaternary palaeontology, archaeology, Palaeolithic, geophysics and geography, of almost all institutes widely dealing with the problem. The authors of 10 papers analysed problems connected with the research of Quaternary in the sections of geology-geography, paleontology and archaeology. The following discussion focused on the prospects for research and on the aspects that might contribute to the development of the pallet of scientific disciplines. An important point at issue was to determine in outlines the prospects for the complex and dynamically developing system of scientific branches focusing on the Czechoslovak Quaternary, with special regards to the more profound natural science, cultural and environmental protection links. The purpose of a concerted research into the ecological, climatic, geological, geographical, biological and cultural relations is to present more convincing pieces of information providing good grounds for the interpretation, analyses and syntheses of complicated mechanisms, processes and links inside the Quaternary. From the agenda of the symposium follows the requirement of closest possible co-operation between specialists, and also between the research centres attending the event.

The session was presided by RNDr. Luděk Seitl, head of the Anthropos Institute, the individual sections were chaired by Prof. Dr. R. Musil, DrSc. (Palaeontological Section), as. prof. Dr. L. Smolíková, DrSc. (Geological-geographical Section), and by PhDr. K. Valoch CSc. (Archaeological Section).

The papers have been published in the proceedings "The Present State and Prospects for the Research into Quaternary in Czechoslovakia".

Geological-geographical Section

L. Smolíková: Development of Soils in the Lower to Middle Pleistocene

A. Kočí, E. Růžičková, A. Zeman, M. Prosová: Some Results of Interdisciplinary Co-operation in Pleistocene and Holocene Research

I. Balák: The Impact of Human Activities on the Landscape of the Moravian Karst

Palaeontological Section

R. Musil: Methods of Fossil Studies

P. Holec, F. Pomorský: Quaternary Fauna of some Caves of Malé Karpaty Mountains (Slovakia)

J. Mlíkovský: Birds of the Early and Middle Pleistocene of Czechoslovakia. Present State and Prospects for Research

Archaeological Section

K. Valoch: Some Remarks on Co-operation between Archaeology and Natural Sciences Concerning the Pleistocene.

S. Vencl: A Preliminary Report on the Rescue Excavation of a Gravettian Site at Stadice

J. Bárta: Problems Connected with the Upper Palaeolithic in Western Slovakia

M. Oliva: The Excavation of the Milovce Upper Palaeolithic Site; Three-year Results.

Luděk Seitl