

*THE 51ST ANTHROPOLOGICAL COLLOQUY  
IN POTSDAM*

The Anthropological Institute of the Medical Faculty (Charité) of the Humboldt University in Berlin (G.D.R.) and the Institute of Forensic Medicine were the organizers of the 51st Anthropological Colloquy held on September 13, 1988. The one-day session took place, similarly as a year earlier, in the seminar hall of the Institute of Forensic Medicine (in Château Lindstedt) in Potsdam. The colloquy comprised 6 invited papers dealing with problems of common interest, both of anthropology and of forensic medicine.

K. Markert (Potsdam) in his very interesting paper "To the Heredity of Bone Characters and Character Complexes on Sinus Frontalis" explained the possible use of some shape minutia of sinus frontales for considering heredity. He presented several X-ray pictures of sinus frontales of a mother, her child and of the possible father, taken to consider a paternity, recommending it as a complementary method for solving similar cases.

H. Grimm (Berlin) read a paper on "The Problems Connected with the Identification of Historical Personalities". He also mentioned the snags and the errors accompanying such attempts. His paper was combined with references to this kind, e.g. in case of a group of Egyptian mummies from the 16th century B.C., of Margrave Gero from the 10th cent. A. D., Heinrich von Löwe from the 11th century, of the Tsar Ivan the Terrible from the 16th century, Josef Hayden of the 18th century composer and others.

In the "Contribution to the Optimization of the Metric Determination of Sex according to the Humerus from recent and prehistoric materials" H. Bruchhaus and his collaborators (J. Holtfreter, H. Uehrlings, R. Volland) used 2 variants. The first is based on differentiating the sex with the help of discrimination analysis of 15 metric characters on the entire humerus. The authors hold that the number of the used characters can be reduced to 12, or even to 11, without any detriment to the high degree of reliability. In the second variant (in case that only isolated fragments of the humerus have been presented) the author suggests the determination of sex with the use of individual, isolated dimensions. According to their importance the following three dimensions are the most important: the width of the humeral distal epiphysis, the circumference of caput humeri and the diameter of caput humeri.

The success of the determination of sex of course depends on the state of preservation of the bone and on the largest possible number of metric characters that can be used.

K. Hajniš (Prague) dealt with "The Mutual Interdependence of the Head and Cranial Characters". On the basis of measuring the width and height of the nose in the face (al-al, n-sn), and of the width of the apertura piriformis in the facial skeleton in 470 adult dead males and 355 adult dead females in the autopsy room he made their comparison and calculated the correlation coefficients of the index nasalis of the facial and cranial skeleton. The correlation is positive, in males higher ( $0.661 \pm 3 \times 0.026$ ), and in females is high ( $0.810 \pm 3 \times 0.031$ ).

The author holds that between index cephalicus and index cranialis there is a high degree of positive dependence (males  $0.875 \pm 3 \times 0.017$ ), females  $0.917 \pm 3 \times 0.023$ ). The index cephalicus, as a rule, is about 1-2 index unit higher than index cranialis; the difference seldom amounts to 3 index units.

M. Dobíšková, P. Strejce and J. Urban studied "The Relation between Body Height and the Length of Foot" in the bodies of 482 adult males and 234 adult females in the dissecting — room of the Prague Institute of Forensic Medicine.

On processing the data they applied the method of multiple linear regression. Their calculations have shown that the information for the estimation of the dead body length from the length and width of the foot, both in males and in females, based on age and state of alimentation, is contained by two variables, by the length of the foot and by the age of the individual. The authors present as a result of their research a regressive equations for the calculation of the body length (height) from foot length, separately for both sexes. The equations have been constructed for the left foot, of slightly more favourable conditions than the right one.

The last paper of the colloquy ("The Beginnings of the Anatomical Theatre in Berlin") was presented by H. St. Brather (Berlin). He presented a historical survey of the development of osteological anatomy (variability, sexual differences, etc.) in Berlin and its relation to the anthropology of the later 19th and early 20th centuries.

The joint colloquy of anthropological and forensic specialists, the second event of this kind in the G.D.R. (the first was held in September 1987), was of great importance, both as to its scientific fields myself and to the orientation of the individual papers. The event again illustrated the interest of forensic medicine for the anthropological research that may be used for the identification of skeletal finds of unknown persons, in paternity disputes, etc.

K. Hajniš

*7th EUROPEAN MEETING OF THE  
PALEOPATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION*

The meeting, sponsored by the Morel-Wells Centre of Paleopathology, Dept. of Human Biology of the University Lyons I and by the French Society for Palaeobiology, was organized by Professor Raoul Perrot and his collaborators at the Medical Faculty in Lyon. The event took place between September 1-4, 1988 and was attended by scientists from 13 European countries — namely from France and Italy, but also from the United Kingdom, Spain, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Denmark, Norway and Greece, as well as from three overseas countries — mainly from the U.S.A., and from Kuwait and Surinam. Together about 60 specialists in medicine, anthropology and archaeology interested in the paleopathological research gathered in one of the lecture halls of the faculty. After introductory speeches by Professor P. A. Bryon, Mrs. Eve Cockburn and Professor R. Perrot the scientific programme started, arranged into consecutive thematic sections.

In the section on *methodology*, application of analysis of computerized radiograms was found to be a valuable supplement to anatomical and radiological data applied to paleopathological cases. Teleradiographic reconstruction of physiognomy of mummies of the members of Spanish aristocracy buried in the Abbey of S. Domenico Maggiore in Naples (15th-16th cent. A. D.) compared with their individual portraits yielded interesting results. A new method was designed for identification of thalassemia by analysis of the haemoglobin preserved in ancient skeletal remains. The mentioned mummies from S. Domenico were studied further by histological, histochemical and ultrastructural methods and their DNA could have been identified by specific staining procedure. The determination of blood groups of three populations — Ancient Egyptians from Gebelen, Ancient Copts, and a prehistoric group from the Aosta valley (Italy) — was used as basis for the reconstruction of their biological distance.