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 ($0.661 \pm \pm 3 \times 0.026$), and in females is high ($0.810 \pm 3 \times 0.031$).

The author hoids that between index cephalicus and index cranialis there is a high degree of positive dependence (males $0.875 \pm 3 \times 0.017$), females $0.917 \pm 3 \times \times 0.023$). 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. Dobisíková, P. Strejc 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 lenght 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 regresive 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 radiogramms 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.

Under the heading of *general paleopathology* mostly populational studies were presented, concerning an Italian Bronze Age series, remains of children from several Austrian Bronze Age cemeteries, the first anthropological series found in Kuwait and dated Hellenistic period, the Christian population of Sayala in Egyptian Nubia, and the above-mentioned mummies of S. Domenico in Naples. A study on natural mummification of Ancient Egyptian infants and children and a survey of contribution of teratology to paleopathology complemented the programm.

In the section on *cranial paleopathology*, a case of a primary malign tumour of the nasoorbital region from S. Domenico, new finds of trephined skulls from different periods of Minorca, an interesting case of a medieval female skull from Norway with the nose cut off (most probably a punished thief) and three cranial anomalies from a nunnery in Belgium were presented.

Vertebral paleopathology dealt with series from the Roman population of Colchester (Britain), victims of the eruption od Vesuvius from Herculaneum and spines of the mummies from S. Domenico.

Sacro-iliac joint paleopathology was studied in individuals of a medieval cemetery at the Christ Church in Spitalfields (England) and in a Pre-Columbian Peruvian skeleton.

Among papers on *traumatology*, four cases of limb amputations from 9th century cementeries in Moravia, a study on possible medical interventions in the repair of a series of parry fractures from 1st to 17th centuries A. D. in Britain, and a deadly injury caused by a sword in one of the mummies of S. Domenico were included. Besides, a report on artificial postmortal injuries found on human bones from the necropolis at Manika on the Euboea Island (3rd millennium B. C.) and a study on enthesopathies studied in British materials were added under the same heading, in spite of being of different nature.

Research on *paleonutrition* focused on determination of some trace elements in a few series from the Roman period as indicators of diet and contamination, interesting when compared with the present state. An analysis of trace elements showed a diet rich in animal proteins among the members of the aristocracy buried in S. Domenico. Microscopic and chemical analysis of coprolites from an archaeological site near Zape Chico in Mexico provided data on paleodiet as well as on the paleoenvironment, including parasites. Also sheep coprolites from Neolithic sites in France furnished valuable data on ancient diet, climate, parasites and digestive pathology. Nutritional stress was found to have been a possible cause of poor health conditions of prehistoric Ven-100 cemetery in Southern California. Unfavourable nutrional status was determined in the 19th century Negro slaves from Surinam, too.

Dental paleopathology brought evidence of a surprisingly bad state of dental health in an — unfortunately too small — Neolithic sample from Rhodos in comparison with the dentition of people from the site Manika on Euboia. Roman population of Colchester (Britain) showed a somewhat worse dental state than that of the contemporary site at Cirenchester. Carious dentitions with paradontic changes were discovered in the mummies of the aristocracy of S. Domenico whose diet was rich in cariogenic suggar and animal proteins.

Infectious paleopathology demonstrated a case of variole detected macro- and microscopically in a mummy of a two-year old infant from S. Domenico (16th cent. A. D.). The virus could be determined by electron microscopy and identified with certainty by an immunological reaction. Similarly, in another mummy of a noblewoman showing multiple skin ulcers, the agent — treponema — could have been demonstrated histologically by indirect immunofluorescence, as well as by its typical features seen in an electron microscope. Two cases of total loss of the head of the femur due to massive pyogenic staphylococcal or tuberculotic infections were described in the British material. Five prehistoric skeletons from Denmark were found with ankyloses or restricted movement of the hip fixed in the right angle. Among other possible causes also infectious diseases were taken into consideration.

Under the heading *miscellaneous and single cases* a probable renal calculus found in remains of a 35 year-old female of the Egyptian Old Kingdom was demonstrated. A case of a dilated scrotum of an infant suggesting hernia or a congenital defect was detected in the mausoleum of Emir Qurqumas in Old Cairo (16 th cent. A. D.)

The oral communications were complemented by several *posters*, showing a case of an ankylotic spondylarthritis, a study on the association of the Harris lines, enamel hypoplasia and porotic hyperostosis with a negative result, examples of congenital anomalies from Neolithic, Roman-time and medieval cemetries of Poland, a case of cranial traumatism and postcranial pathology from a Burgundian tomb and a case of vertebral pathology of a medieval elderly male from the vicinity of Vichy (France). Pia Bennike presented a videofilm "The Peasant Physician" made in Kenya by Danish photographers K. and L. Jappe in 1985. The village doctor is shown performing a partial trephination of the skull of a young female.

The meeting was complemented by social dinners, visit of the new Gallo-Roman Museum and a tour of the Old Lyon.

Eugen Strouhal

STILLFRIED — EINE UNIKATE ENTDECKUNG VON SIEBEN SKELETTEN IN EINER VORRATSGRUBE AUS DER ÄLTEREN BRONZEZEIT.

Prof. J. Szilvássy schickte an die Redaktion Aufnahmen des unikaten Fundes von sieben Skeletten, die im Jahre 1976 in einer altbronzezeitlichen Vorratsgrube auf der Fundstelle Stillfried (Niederösterreich) entdeckt worden waren. Weil es

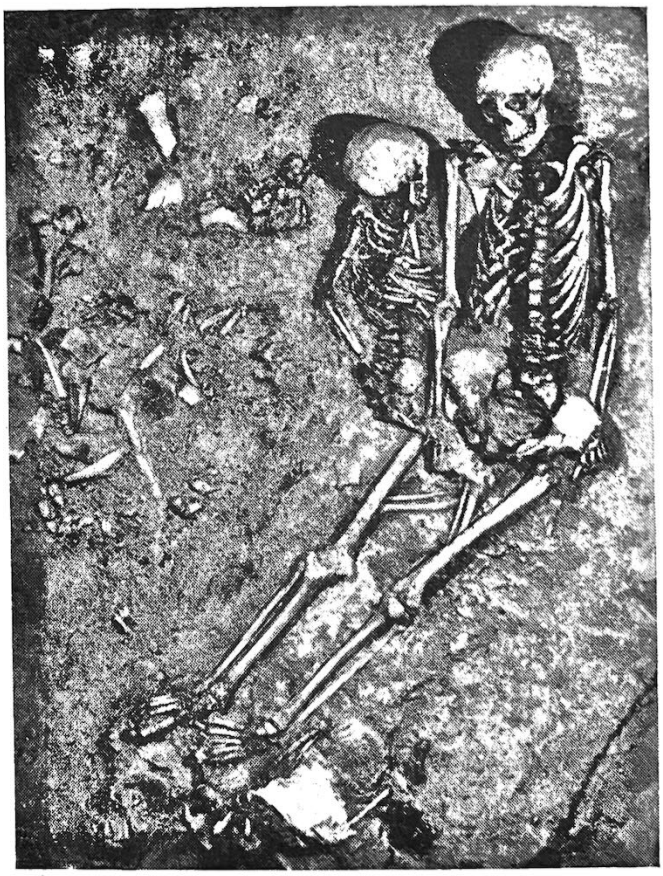

ABB. 1. *Die 45 jährige Frau Stillfried 5 und ihr 6 jähriger Knabe Stillfried 6 bei der Freilegung im Jahre 1976. Der Knabe umklammert mit seinen Beinen den rechten Oberschenkel seiner Mutter. Seinen Körper und seinen Kopf hält er der Mutter zugewendet, wie umgekehrt diese Frau, auf dem Rücken liegend, ihren Körper leicht nach rechts zu dem sterbenden Kind dreht. Die Mutter legt offensichtlich gleichsam beruhigend und beschützend ihre rechte Hand auf den rechten Oberschenkel ihres Kindes.*