



THE CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The 1990 run of the European Anthropological Congress (EAA) was held on August 27–30, this time in Wrocław. The event was organized by the Anthropological Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, in active co-operation with the anthropologists of Mickiewicz University in Poznań and with the academies of physical culture in Cracow and Wrocław, and with financial contribution by the Polish Academy of Sciences and of the Wenner-Gren Foundation. The scientific committee of the congress including T. Bielicki, O. Eiben, M. D. Garralda, G. Hauser, B. Hulanicka, D. Roberts and G. Susanne accepted a programme of four plenary sessions in the mornings and three poster discussions in the afternoons.

The opening session took place at the aula of the Wrocław University. The opening addresses were delivered by the president of the Congress T. Bielicki, president of the EAA Mrs. G. Hauser and by the vice-rector. D. Roberts then delivered a paper on Genetic Markers and Ethnic History. In the afternoon two parallel poster sessions were held, consisting of the presentation of posters and discussions, on topic 1. Fossil Hominids and Primatology (12 posters) and No. 4 Growth and Maturation, Medical and Clinical Aspects, Growth Standards (17). In the evening there was a welcoming meeting at the Town Hall, followed by a concert by the mixed choir of Cantores Minores Wroclawiensis.

At the plenary session of the following day Mrs. B. Senutová read her paper on Locomotion in the Earliest Hominids: Traces of Arboreal Adaptation? — and of R. Protche: The Neanderthal — Modern Man Transition: the current state of controversy, and R. Malina: Human Physical Activity and Motor Skills: an Evolutionary Perspective. The afternoon poster sessions dealt with the following topics: 2. Biological, Ethnohistorical and Ecological Interpretation of Skeletal Materials (29) and 5. Growth, Maturation and Health Status: Social Stratification and Secular Changes (31). In the evening the guests had a chance to visit the memorial-panorama of the Battle of Raclawice.

At next day's plenary session were read the papers by J. M. Tanner: Normal Growth, Expected Growth, Optimal Growth: the Philosophy of Growth and Health Status and as a Measure of Social Inequalities: the Case of Britain; M. Prokopec's Genetical and Environmental Factors of Child Growth and Physique (example of Czechoslovakia) and T. Bielicki's Growth and Health Status as a Measure of Social Inequalities: the Case of Poland (a short report on recent findings). The poster section dealt with the following topics: 3. Genetic variability in modern man: Morphological Characters, dermatoglyphics, Simple Genetic Markers (33) and 6. Body Composition, Somatotypes, Functional and Physiological Trades, Physical Fitness (27). In the evening there was a banquet for the participants.

At the plenary session of the last day were read the papers by R. Hauspie and G. Susanne: Growth Modelling: Methodology and Application, and by A. Eriksson: Genetic and Epidemiological Aspects on Variation in Human Twinings Rates in Sweden. At the concluding ceremony of the congress members of the EAA committee assessed the events that had occurred since the Budapest congress and announced that the next congress was due to take place in Madrid on September 7–11, 1992, while the 1994 run of the congress was supposed to be held in Copenhagen. Then the financial

report was read and members attending the congress were informed about co-operation with the Erasmus educational programme. Professors Tanner, Ferembach, Olivier and Jelínek received memorial medals and were named honorary members of the EAA. There was also a rather controversial discussion on the poster presentation of anthropological researches. The participants then expressed their heart-felt thanks to the organizers and the 7th Congress of the EAA was closed.

Vladimír Šedivý

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PALAEOPATHOLOGY IN WARSAW

The growing number and importance of palaeopathological studies was manifested in the fact that besides the European members meeting of the Paleopathology Association at Cambridge (see another report) also the VIIIth Congress of the European Anthropological Association in Wrocław was followed by a specialized palaeopathological symposium. It was organized by Professor A. Wiercińska of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw in one of the halls of the reconstructed Royal Castle from August 31 to September 2, 1990. The meeting was attended by about 60 scientists and about 30 papers were presented.

As introduction a paper on human diseases dying out or totally eradicated (*E. Promińska*) was read in absentia. The most ancient case of thalasaemia was identified according to a shortened and deformed humerus in a submerged Pre-Pottery Neolithic B village at Atlit-Yam near Mount Carmel in Israel (*I. HersHKovitz*). A unique case with femora lacking the lesser trochanters was revealed in a skeleton of a 25 year old male from the Late Upper Palaeolithic layer at Arene Candide (*D. W. Frayer*). In skeletons of the Pre-Hispanic inhabitants of Gran Canaria osteoporosis was found in 30 %, connected with mainly vegetarian diet, signs of malnutrition and female infanticide, typical for overpopulated zones. Lungs of mummies showed anthracosis from inhalation of smoke from fireplaces in inhabited caves (*E. Gonzales-Reimers et al.*). A case of myeloma multiplex and hypertrophic osteoporosis were the highlights of a palaeopathological survey of the Bell Beaker Culture material from Samborzec, Poland (*E. Głeń-Haduch*). Not only a high incidence of benign tumours (3 osteomas and a cyst) but also two cases of malignant tumours, a primary and a metastatic carcinoma, occurred among 76 adults only identified in three Christian cemeteries at Sayala, Egyptian Nubia, dated 6th–11th cent. A. D. (*E. Strouhal*). In several Medieval populations from Poland not only caries showed high frequencies (13.1–40.0 %) and incidence (63–80 %), but also alveolar recession resulting from periodontal disease was important. Women suffered more from dental pathology than males (*M. Kaczmarek*). In a Peruvian mummy of a young adult female of the Chancay Culture (1200–1476 A. D.) stored in the K. May Museum in Dresden signs of an artificial deformation of the skull and of periparturient death were revealed (*I. Wustman*). Cortical bone involution in humerus and femur, studied in a Polish sample, showed a high degree of correlation with the age at death assessed according to the Acsádi and Nemeskéri method