



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 Wratislavienses.

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 Twinning 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 Chanca Culture (1200–1476 A. D.) stored in the K. May Museum in Dresden signs of an artificial deformation of the skull and of peripartal 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

(*J. Piontek*). In a young adult female from the 6th Dynasty nobility of ancient Aswan, Upper Egypt, areas of fine porosity were detected in several places of the skull and areas of coarse porosity were present in the postcranial skeleton, mainly at the epiphyses. Rejecting several possibilities, the case remained diagnostically unresolved (*F. W. Rösing* and *M. Schultz*). A high frequency of degenerative osteoarthritis with some cases of DISH and ankylosing spondylitis characterized palaeopathologically skeletons of the Late Avar Age (8th cent. A. D.) in Hungary (*Gy. Pálfi*). Signs of osteoporosis were studied by 6 different analytical methods in samples from the Danish Neolithic Passage Graves (4000–1800 B. C.), the Viking Period (800–1500 A. D.) and recent times. Bone mineral content was decreasing, the extent of the marrow cavity increasing and the organic/inorganic ratio rising (*P. Bennike*). A typical scaphocephalic skull, found among 400 skulls of the Medieval skeletal series from Breda, Netherlands, was studied from several viewpoints (*S. T. Brooks et al.*). Medical and ritual trepanations were found in the Protobulgarian people of northwest Bulgaria in a strikingly high frequency of 32% (*J. Jordanov*). The involution of the alveolar process in the toothless mandible was measured by the method of Prágai et al. (1979) and expressed in several indices which showed a good correlation with individual age (*F. Kósa*). Asymmetry of the external cranial base was studied in a series of Medieval skulls from Kielce, Poland (*M. Zadurska*). High incidence of congenital anomalies due to isolation and endogamy, low life expectancy and high frequencies of caries, dental hypoplasia, periodontitis and abscesses were found in a Medieval population of the 9th–12th cent. A. D. living in an isolated valley in Cantabria, north of Spain (*V. Galera* and *M. D. Garralda*). 25 cases of syphilis coming from extensive skull collections from Vilnius and skeletal series of other places in Lithuania, dated 16th–18th cent. A. D., were detected and analysed according to the frequency of its characteristic features. Some generalizations about the spreading of the disease through Lithuania were drawn from these data (*R. Jankauskas*). Studied in 83 skulls from the 19th century Florence, the start of enamel hypoplasia could be fixed into the age between 1.5 and 3.5 years following the weaning period 1.0–1.5 years, attested from historical sources (*J. M. Cecchi et al.*). Diagnostic problems of some less frequent conditions of the vertebral palaeopathology, viz. of the vertebral compression caused by tumourous metastases, were presented in Medieval Czech series (*L. Vyhánek*). A unique case of ectromelia brachialis – aplasia of the right humerus with adaptive changes in the right ulna – connected with an inborn right-sided thoracic scoliosis with rib and sternal deformations, was detected in a population of the Early Medieval stronghold at Kalisz Zawodskie, Poland (*A. Wiercińska*). Secular changes in dental reduction, caries frequency and course of the periodontal disease were studied in one Neolithic and three successive series dated between 2nd and 12th cent. A. D. from Lithuania (*I. Balčiūnienė*).

The participants in the Symposium enjoyed as well a variegated social programme. The exhibition „Man of the Last Millennium”, prepared by *M. Stloukal*, *H. Hanáková* and *L. Vyhánek* was inaugurated in the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, a piano concert was offered in the Chopin's birth house at Zelazowa Wola and a cocktail party was organized in the Royal Castle in Warsaw. According to the announcement of the organizers, all the presented papers will be published in one of the two journals edited by *B. Chiarelli* of Florence. We would like to congratulate Professor *Wiercińska* and all her colleagues for this scientifically and socially very successful meeting.

Eugen Strouhal

THE EIGHTH EUROPEAN MEETING OF THE PALEOPATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION

The colourful and vivid English medieval university city of Cambridge was the host of about a hundred participants of the Eighth European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association on September 18–22, 1990. They came from different European countries, but also from the U.S.A. and even from Australia.

The Organising Committee – Janet Henderson, Juliet Rogers, Ann Stirland and Tony Waldron – prepared a rich, but smoothly articulated programme. Oral communications were delivered in one of the University halls each morning and early afternoon. In a smaller hall in the famous King's College a poster session and three workshops followed in late afternoon. An exhibition of pathological specimens from the Duckworth Collection were on display in the Department of Biological Anthropology and an exercise in inter-observer variation in the scoring of osteoarthritis was prepared by T. Waldron and J. Rogers at King's College.

The King's College offered also for many participants full accommodation including daily meals in its great Dining Hall. An introductory reception and a closing conference dinner were served in the same place. Informal gatherings of the participants continued after dinner in the Common Room of the College. There were almost no gaps in the programme which would allow to escape for a visit of the beautiful King's College Chapel and other important monuments of the city.

Oral communications were introduced by a welcome address by Eve Cockburn, pointing out the achievements of the Association but also problems which it is facing currently. The 44 read papers and 12 shown posters encompassed the whole range of the discipline. We shall not enumerate them one by one with the names of the authors, but condense them in 15 thematic groupings, defined by ourselves.

1. Concerning congenital disorders, two cases of achondroplastic dwarfs were demonstrated, one from the Old Kingdom tomb at Giza (Egypt), the other one of the Early Medieval period from Oosterbeintum (Friesland, The Netherlands). Hip joint dislocations showed a strikingly high frequency in the early Lappic populations of Norway. The features, evolution and aetiology of this disorder were studied in six 4th–13th cent. A. D. sites in France. Curious defects of the 3rd metatarsal and cuneiform were reviewed in various populations. A Down's syndrome like case was found in the 7200 year old California Indian cemetery at Santa Rosa Island.

2. The wide-spread phenomenon of traumatism was the theme of many papers, starting with its occurrence in the Middle Pleistocene skeleton from Atapuerca (Spain). In three of the four males buried together with horses in a Gallo-Roman collective grave in France violent traumatic injuries were observed, suggesting that they were either gladiators, executed, or sacrificed people. Ante- and postmortem traumata and other pathological changes were studied in bog bodies from Britain and Denmark. Stubby thumb syndrom was found in the bog body from Lindow Moss (Cheshire). Tangential traumata from different periods of Spain were analyzed in relation to the type of used weapon. Some of the 33 individuals with unhealed blade injuries from a site in York, two traumatic cases from the Guisborough Priory in Cleveland (England) and a case showing disability following an injury from a medieval cemetery at Ipswich (Suffolk) were demonstrated in pictures. An age related study of spondylolysis in Hudson Bay Eskimos revealed it as a dynamic process beginning as a fatigue fracture. Treatment of trauma by reduction and/or splints was proved in large British Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval samples. Fatal bullet wounds in a suicided male buried in the crypt of Christ Church at Spitalfields were previously not recognized by several human skeletal biologists. War injuries came from the War of Independence (1813) cemetery near Convent of Santa Clara at Tolosa (Basque Country).

3. In contrast with the previous theme, inflammations were dealt with only in a few communications or posters. They comprised a study on the incidence and mortality of bacterial pneumonia in a preagricultural group (4000 B. P.) and a group of farmers (1000 B. P.) from the coastal area of northern Chile, a strikingly high frequency of the chronic middle ear infection in a series of Egyptian Predynastic skulls from Naqada (4.8%), a case of femoral osteomyelitis from the 10th cent. site at Sarretudvari (Hungary) and an analysis between the incidence of infection and ecology (nutrition) in the Trans-Mississippi South archaeological area.

4. Several papers were devoted to specific infections. Rib lesions caused most probably by tuberculosis were studied by SEM in a variety of British Roman and Medieval cemete