

Yoel Rak: On the significance of the biomechanical differences between Neandertal and modern human pelvises.

Rebecca Can: Mitochondrial DNA and human evolution. Our one lucky mother.

Paul Bahn: New advances in Ice Age art.

Olga Soffer - Bobyshev: Ancestral lifeways in Eurasia - the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic records.

Arthur J. Jelinek: Behavioral evidence from the Later Paleolithic in southwest Europe and the Levant.

Catherine Farizy: Behavioral and cultural change at the Middle - Upper Paleolithic transition in Western Europe.

Ofer Bar - Yosef: The role of southwest Asia in the geographic origin of modern humans.

Milford Wolpoff: Multiregional evolution: a worldwide source for modern Homo sapiens.

F. Clark Howell: The integration of archaeology with palaeontology.

Tal Simmons: Archaic and modern Homo sapiens in the contact zones. North Africa and Levant.

Even when represented mostly by American speakers the Symposium presented well the contemporary discussion on the origins of modern humans. A well organised representative meeting.

J. J.

MONT BEGO, THE SACRED MOUNTAIN OF THE BRONZE AGE. ITS PLACE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN PREHISTORIC RELIGIONS.

This international conference met in Tende, French maritime Alps in the neighbourhood of Mt. Bego, from 5th to 11th July 1991. It was organized and prepared by Henri de Lumley of the Institut de Paléontologie humaine in Paris and by his collaborators. Altogether 15 countries were represented and 66 contributions were presented in following sections:

Section I: The Bronze Age of the Alps.

Section II: Protohistoric Rock-carvings of the Mt. Bego region.

Section III: Protohistoric Rock-carvings of the Alps.

Section IV: Protohistoric Rock-carvings out of the Alps.

Section V: The Importance of the protohistoric Rock-carvings.

Section VI: Protohistoric religions of the Mediterranean area and their comparative study.

The lectures covered all aspects of the broad theme. The participants visited during two excursions la Vallée des Merveilles and la Vallée de Fontanalba, the two most important valleys of the protected Mt. Bego region.

The extraordinary importance of Mt. Bego region is not only in unbelievably numerous and well preserved rock-carvings but also in the fact that they are all situated above the alpine tree line and therefore nearly not disturbed by human activities. When studied with modern equipment and with statistical methods they can be considered as complete collection of this important Bronze Age religious message. There is no other similar European region with such a challenge. The publications and reports of Henri de Lumley and his team of collaborators covering broad and complex approach to the studied subject promise a serious and important contribution to our knowledge of protohistoric religions.

The contributions presented during the meeting covered also the broad comparative studies of the subject in the European and even extra-European context. The preliminary publication of the presented papers in two volumes was very appreciated by all the participants. The proceedings of the meeting will be published in 1992/93.

J. J.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON JOINT DISEASES IN VIENNA 1991

The APPA (Arbeitsgruppe Paläopathologie und Anthropologie) organized in collaboration with the Museum of Natural History in Vienna (M. Teschler-Nicola and her collaborators) in its premises an

international workshop on joint diseases on June 7-8, 1991. Of the 28 participants in the meeting a half were from the reunited Germany, a quarter from Austria, four from Switzerland and three from Czechoslovakia.

M. SCHULTZ (Göttingen) led the workshop aimed at practical training of the participants in evaluation of degenerative changes in various great joints according to his detailed schemes (In: Anthropologie. Handbuch der vergleichenden Biologie des Menschen. Fischer, Stuttgart and New York 1988, Band 1, Abb. 170-171). The uniform approach of different research workers is badly needed in order to get a sound basis for comparison of data extracted from different populations. Demonstrations of morphological distinction between degenerative and inflammatory changes were also included in the programme.

M. POHL (Düsseldorf) contributed with a rather complicated approach to evaluation of the influence of different preservation of the region in question. If less than 30 % of either rim or joint surface were present, the probability of finding more progressed pathological changes substantially diminished. This was the case more often in skeletons of older than younger individuals.

F. RÖSING (Ulm) presented some interesting palaeopathological cases from recent excavations of a medieval cemetery near the cathedral in Ulm.

E. STROUHAL (Prague) reported on two cases of malignant tumours found in the Christian population at Sayala (Egyptian Nubia) among 76 adult individuals. This communication was complemented by M. Schultz demonstrating his histological findings of the same cases.

Eugen Strouhal

LES PREMIERES TROUVAILLES AUTHENTIQUES DE PALÉOLITHIQUE À MISKOLC ET LES QUESTIONS ACTUELLES DES INDUSTRIES À PIÈCES FOLIACÉES DE L'EUROPE CENTRALE DANS LEURS CADRES CHRONOLOGIQUES, PALÉCOLOGIQUES, PALÉONTOLOGIQUES. COLLOQUE COMMEMORATIF INTERNATIONAL, MISKOLC 1891 - 1991.

Zum 100. Jahrestag der ersten paläolithischen Funde in Miskolc, der beiden bekannten Faustkeilartigen Artefakte, veranstaltete das Otto Herman Museum in Miskolc in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Ungarischen Nationalmuseum, dem Historischen Museum von Budapest und dem Staatlichen Geologischen Institut ein internationales Kolloquium, welches den Problemen blattspitzenführender Industrien des Paläolithikums gewidmet war. Es verlief vom 11. bis 14. September 1991 mit der Teilnahme von etwa 40 Fachleuten aus 9 Ländern. Die Vorträge behandelten verschiedene die Blattspitzenindustrien betreffende Fragen, z. B. regionale Übersichten, Technologie, Chronologie und Herkunft sowie die Geschichte der Forschung in Miskolc. Während zweier Exkursionstage besuchten die Teilnehmer sowohl die berühmten Höhlenfundplätze im Bükk-Gebirge (Szeleta, Istállóskő, Subalyuk) als auch neue, von A. Ringer erforschte Freilandfundplätze mit wichtigen Löbtaufschlüssen, die Hinweise auf die stratigraphisch-chronologische Position des Bábonyien bringen. Diese von Ringer vor wenigen Jahren definierte Industrie stellt eine noch mittelpaläolithische Blattspitzenfacies dar, die als unmittelbarer Vorläufer des bereits jungpaläolithischen Szeletien angesehen wird. Die bisherigen Vermutungen über die Herkunft des Szeletien aus verschiedenen moustérioiden Industrien im Karpathenbecken werden dadurch konkretisiert und gewinnen an Wahrscheinlichkeit. Man kann sagen, daß die Abstammung des mitteleuropäischen Szeletien einer der am besten belegten Entwicklungsabläufe im europäischen Paläolithikum ist. - Die interessante Tagung verlief in einem angenehmen Milieu und bereicherte gewiß alle Teilnehmer mit neuen Erkenntnissen.

Karel Valoch