



### A new palaeoanthropological working group.

At the 29th May 1991 Springs' Society for American Archaeology meeting, John E. Yellen from the National Science Foundation, Washington, suggested the formation of a new society which would bring together Palaeolithic and Neolithic archaeologists, physical anthropologists and specialists in other related disciplines like ecology, molecular biology, cultural anthropology, primatology, ethnoarchaeology, etc. One of the reasons to establish this new organization of palaeoanthropologists is to facilitate the interaction between physical anthropologists and archaeologists in order to support the study on how biology and culture relate to each other.

A two days meeting, immediately preceding the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in spring 1992 in Pittsburgh, was proposed.

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*Jan Jelínek*

### 3rd International Congress on Human Palaeontology. Jerusalem, Israel, August 23 — 28, 1992.

The 3rd International Congress on Human Palaeontology was organised by the International Association for the Study of Human Palaeontology (Henry De Lumley — President, Giacomo Giacobini — General Secretary) and the Congress Organising Committee (Patricia Smith — Organising Secretary) in cooperation with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The opening ceremony and introductory round table "The Ancestors of Humankind" were organised in the Weiss Auditorium, Campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The Congress sessions and symposia were held in the Knesset Tower Hotel in Jerusalem. It was attended by more than 300 participants from 24 countries, who presented altogether about 130 lectures in two parallel sessions and 24 posters.

The Congress had an extraordinary working atmosphere; round tables and discussions were organised every day. All of them are worth mentioning: "The Ancestors of Humankind" (round table) and "Open Debate on the Ancestors of Humankind" on Monday, "Homo erectus and the Ante-Neanderthal" (round table) on Tuesday, and "Neanderthals and the Origins of Modern Humans" (round table), Population Variation from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Neolithic" (round table) and "Discussion on Neanderthals and Homo sapiens sapiens" on Thursday.

The individual scientific sessions dealt with various topics of hominid evolution and human palaeontology. The paper sessions "Australopithecines and their Background" and "Franz Weidenriech: His Contribution to Paleoanthropology" (Monday

sessions), "New Fossil Discoveries" and "Direct Dating of Palaeolithic Sites (Tuesday sessions) summarized recent views on Australopithecus, Homo erectus and Early Homo sapiens evolution. Many sessions dealt with the problem of variability, growth and adaptation in hominid and especially Homo sapiens evolution: "Morphometric Variation and Functional Adaptations in Fossil Hominids and Hominoids" (Tuesday session), "Evolutionary Trends in the Genus Homo" (Tuesday and Thursday sessions), "Dental Development in Fossils" (Friday session), "Growth and Development in Fossil Hominids" (Friday session), "New Developments in DNA Analysis of Fossils" (Friday session) and "Populations from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Neolithic" (Friday session). The last group of paper sessions presented current views on hominid palaeoecology and culture in Homo sapiens evolution: "Subsistence, Technology and Palaeoecology in the Pleistocene" (Thursday session), "Hominids and Hunting in the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic" (Friday session) and "The Archaeology of Upper Palaeolithic to Neolithic Population" (Friday session). There was an outstandingly interesting field trip to the Carmel Caves on Wednesday.

It is almost impossible to summarize the most interesting results of the Congress. Perhaps the most typical characteristics of the Congress sessions were very frequent presentations of advanced methodology and methods. The recent scope of the topics of hominid evolution studies reaches from the traditional problems of fossil morphology and dating up to studies of behaviour, genetics and culture. Advances in evolutionary theory and the rapid progress in methods and technology have shown that human palaeontology and evolution are a very modern and perspective branch of anthropological sciences. Selected papers from the 3rd International Congress on Human Palaeontology should be published in *L'Anthropologie*, Paris, in 1993.

The sessions of the Executive Committee and Permanent Council of the International Association for the study of Human Palaeontology were held during the Congress and new members of the Permanent Council representing Central European countries, were elected (Herbert Ullrich — Germany and Václav Vančata — Czech Republic). The Czech representation in the Permanent Council has recently four members: Jan Jelínek, Eugen Strouhal, Václav Vančata and Emanuel Vlček. The next Congress will be organised in South Africa in 1997, partly in Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, and partly at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

In my opinion, the 3rd International Congress on Human Palaeontology was a really successful event, providing much new information on human evolution. The atmosphere of the Congress was very pleasant and the whole program had a superb organisation. Our sincere thanks belong to the Organising Committee in general, but the enormous organising effort by Patricia Smith should be mentioned in particular.

*Václav Vančata*