

and lytic lesions in skeletal material from England (Ch. Roberts, K. Manchester), the epidemic of "modorra", an enigmatic disease, perhaps a virgin-soil epidemic brought by the Spaniards in 1494–5 which exterminated a large proportion of the Guanches of Tenerife (C. Rodríguez Martín) and evidence of the use of *Cannabis sativa* (hashish) as a medicament in difficult delivery of a 14-year-old from a 14th cent. A.D. burial complex west of Jerusalem (J. Zias).

Eugen Strouhal

#### 62nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS IN TORONTO, 1993

The 62nd annual meeting of American anthropologists was held in the luxurious Toronto Hilton Hotel from April 14 to 17, 1993. Several large halls enabled simultaneous programs in various sections and the great foyer was used for daily changing presentations of posters. It was a great venue with about a thousand participants. In its scope also meetings of councils and members of several associations (Paleoanthropology Society, Human Biology Council, American Association of Physical Anthropology – plenary session, etc.) took place. The well designed and successfully managed program was prepared and supervised by members of the AAPA Program committee J. D. Haas (chairman), G. Armelagos, E. Delson, T. R. Turner and C. M. Worthman.

The topics included the whole range of modern physical anthropology. Oral lectures and posters were prepared by 800 authors and presented in 35 sessions. Each of the seven main subdisciplines occupied several sessions.

The theme *Primates* comprised 5 oral and poster sessions on their behaviour and biological variation and an oral symposium on the recent development in the study of hominid ontogeny.

*Palaeoanthropology* was divided into 7 sessions, starting with Pliocene human evolution, through early hominid behavioural ecology, a poster session, Early Pleistocene human evolution, Late Pleistocene human evolution, Primate evolution, and ending with a special session on "Function, phylogeny and fossils: miocene hominoids and great apes and human origins."

*Palaeopathology*, because of the preceding special meeting of the Palaeopathology association (see another report), was limited only to a poster session and a session of contributed papers.

*Skeletal biology* was represented by 3 sessions, a poster session, a session of contributed papers, and a symposium "Representativeness: the comparison of skeletons and records from historic cemetery studies".

*Dental anthropology* was divided into a poster session and a session of contributed papers.

The largest program involved *Human biological variation*, divided in 11 specialized sessions, starting with a symposium on sexual difference in blood pressure, session on growth and development, symposium on population biology of North Americans and Siberians as revealed by Boas' data, posters on growth, health and disease, symposium on anthropological perspectives on cleft lip and palate, session on reproduction, ecology and new methodology, posters on human adaptation and variation, symposium on human variability and plasticity honouring G. W. Lasker, another symposium in honour of Edward E. Hunt, posters on growth, health and disease, and demography, and an oral session on growth, health and adaptation.

*Genetics* comprised posters, a session of contributed papers and a symposium on quantitative traits in the study of population structure – dermatoglyphics.

In the Supplement 16 to the American J. of Phys. Anthropology, "Annual Meeting Issue 1993", prepared in time for the participants, the detailed program and alphabetically listed abstracts of papers and posters have been printed.

Eugen Strouhal

#### VIIIth CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION IN MADRID, 1992

This important scientific event of our discipline took place in September 7–10, 1992, in the lecturing halls of the Faculty of Biology of the Universidad Complutense of Madrid. It was well organized by the President of the Executive Committee of the Congress Professor María Dolores Garralda and its members V. Galera, M. D. Marrodan, C. Prado, J. Casas, J. L. Gomez, P. Gomez-Lobo, J. Herrerin and L. Sanz. The Scientific Committee was composed of D. F. Roberts, M. D. Garralda, G. Hauser, O. Eiben, T. Bielicki, G. Susanne, G. F. de Stefano, M. Roede and M. Prokopc.

Every morning was reserved for one, two or three main lectures of an hour duration or so, presented for the full audience. Thus B. Vandermeersch presented "The first humans in Europe", A.-M. Tillier "Differential growth patterns between Neanderthal and modern humans", J. Jelínek "The Gravettian population of Central Europe", A. D. G. Beynon "Tooth development, clocks and dental chronology", S. M. Borgognini Tarli "Bone chemistry and immunology: state of research, problems and perspectives", D. Ubelaker "Forensic anthropology, an emerging subdiscipline", S. S. Papiha "Human genome and anthropology" and G. Lindgren "Growth at the society, an interdisciplinary approach".

Because a total of 87 oral papers were announced by titles and abstracts, it was necessary to divide them into sessions according to current subdisciplines of anthropology. Sometimes, however, individual papers were misplaced into inappropriate sections, mostly for technical reasons, which limited discussions on them. We cannot quote here all the presented papers by their titles and authors, but it can be stated that most of them added valuable new insights into current anthropological problems.

As much as 88 posters were prepared and presented by their authors during four sessions attributed to them, so that it was easy to rise questions and discuss their contents.

The Congress was attended by hundreds of physical anthropologists from various European countries as well as from the United States, Egypt, Israel and a few other countries.

During the Congress, the general assembly of the European Anthropological Association was held. It decided that the 1994 Congress will take place in Copenhagen, and the 1996 one in Brussels.

The Congress in Madrid was enriched by several social events, as was a cocktail in the City Hall of Madrid, and a great Congress Banquet in one of the leading hotels of the city.

Eugen Strouhal

#### THE SECOND AURA CONGRESS, CAIRNS '92

The Second AURA Congress, the largest conference in the world addressing the scientific discipline of palaeoart studies, cognitive archaeology, pefology or rock art studies, was held from 30 August to 4 September 1992, at the conference centre of the Hilton, Cairns, Australia. It was preceded and followed by numerous field trips and excursions, beginning with the Grand Tour on 1 August, and ending with the Queensland Tour on 22 September. A total of 171 academic papers or specialist lectures were given, including several public lectures, mostly in Cairns. This number is slightly below that of 1988, because we found then that the late daily finishing times of the three simultaneous sessions were too demanding for all concerned. Numerous papers were submitted for presentation and could not be accommodated, the congress organizers apologise to the authors concerned.

The Cairns Congress was attended by 267 fully registered delegates, 69 non-registered delegates (members of official parties such as a Minister's and the French Embassy's, non-member congress volunteers, subsidised delegates, and delegates of the media), 40 delegates with day registrations, and 78 members of the public who attended public lectures in the actual conference lecture halls. This gives a total of 454. We have inadequate records of the attendance numbers of non-delegates of the various other congress events, including public lectures and seminars in Cairns, Townsville and Sydney, social events of the Congress, Kelvin

Smibert's exhibition *Out of the dark* (replicas of Australian cave art) in the Cairns Regional Art Gallery, and the congress poster exhibition in the Hilton basement. Our conservative estimate of these attendance numbers is 600–650 people other than congress delegates.

In summary, well over a thousand people have attended events of the Second AURA Congress, of which 376 were actual delegates. For comparison, the First AURA Congress had 343 delegates, which included a similar number of day registrations. In view of the economic situation, which has deteriorated considerably since 1988, this is a most encouraging level of attendance. Moreover, the Congress achieved very considerable media attention, locally, nationally and internationally. This included attendance by representatives of journals of popular science and other orientations, and coverage in newspapers, numerous radio stations, and local and international television networks.

Eight of the eleven Cairns symposia will result in published proceedings. It is anticipated that four volumes will be published in Australia, two in India and two in Britain. Suitable papers from the remaining three symposia will appear in selected rock art journals.

### *The academic symposia*

The subjects of the eleven Darwin symposia suggested that, in 1988, the discipline was still engaged in formulating priorities and directions, in establishing its scope. Most of the subjects were not particularly specific, four were simply defined by geography, and only three were designed to break new thematic ground. Four years later, in Cairns, most of the (again) eleven symposia addressed very specific subjects, and they did so in a distinctly forward-looking way. For instance, Symposium A, chaired by Michel Lorblanchet and Paul Bahn, addressed the future direction of the discipline quite directly: *The post-stylistic era: where do we go from here?* It offered a collection of innovative, trailblazing ideas, with the kind of flair we have come to expect from its chair persons.

Then there was Symposium B (Claire Smith and Betty Meehan, with Mike Morwood as discussant), with a star-studded cast. Together with the eventual proceedings of this session, Rock art and information exchange will become a monument to the dedication and perseverance of its young architect, Claire Smith.

Symposium C, *Rock art studies as a curriculum for teaching* (Giriraj Kumar and Osaga Odak) certainly was a forward-looking session, taking a long-term view of the discipline, and emphasising the endeavours of establishing it in several countries.

Another trailblazer symposium was chaired by Paul Faulstich and Paul Taçon: *Spatial considerations in rock art*, a distinctive subject on which contributors from six continents presented

papers. And again, the program was bristling with the names of famous scholars.

One of the most important areas in the emergence of a scientific discipline of palaeoart studies is that of rock art dating, a subject in which more progress has been made in the four years since the Darwin congress than in all of scientific history before. No symposium had ever been held on rock art dating, and the proceedings of Symposium F, *The dating of rock art* (hopefully the first to be published among the Cairns proceedings) will be a landmark in this discipline. Unfortunately Alan Watchman could not attend the Congress, and Marvin W. Rowe graciously accepted the role of Jack Steinbring's co-chairperson.

Symposium G, *Preservation of rock art*, followed the successful formula established by Colin Pearson in Darwin. It was co-chaired by Andrew Thorn and Jacques Brunet, two of the foremost practitioners in rock art conservation, and comprised a succession of solid papers on theoretical, deontological and practical aspects of rock art preservation and conservation.

The session on the *Management of rock imagery* (H), chaired by Graeme K. Ward, was distinguished by its most significant component of contributions by Aboriginal scholars and site managers. This provided much-needed indigenous perspectives on a subject that is of immediate concern to Australian Aboriginal people, as the formal return of site control proceeds in various parts of the country.

Despite its brevity, Symposium I, *Rock art of north Queensland*, comprised some exceptionally important papers. Chaired by Mike Morwood and Noelene Cole, this session was intended primarily as an information source for delegates visiting the rock art sites in the wider Cairns region. Yet it comprised significant papers presenting spectacular new results.

*The ethics of rock art research* was the theme of Symposium J. One of the co-chairs, Mario Consens, had been unable to attend, and a prominent Aboriginal leader, John Ah Kit, kindly agreed to co-chair with Robert G. Bednarik. This was most appropriate as this session, too, was dominated by Aboriginal presentations. It included also some fine papers by non-indigenes.

The *General session* K was chaired by Jarl Nordbladh and Ellen Hickman. As was to be expected, it covered a wide range of topics, including several papers from northern Australia, but also excellent presentations on very diverse subjects from many parts of the world.

Symposium L consisted of four separate workshops on site management, entitled *Indigenous experiences and perceptions*. Some parts of them were closed to non-indigenes, and it is notable that this was the only symposium that produced a set of recommendations (cf. next issue of *RAR*). The workshops were convened by Nola James, Natalie Franklin and Michael Rowland, with a keynote address by Theo Saunders.

Robert G. Bednarik