



BERICHTE * NEWS * ACTUALITES

20th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PALEOPATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION IN TORONTO, 1993

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Paleopathology Association (February 1, 1973 in Detroit) an important meeting attended by a large number of American as well as several Old World paleopathologists was organized in Toronto on 13 and 14 April 1993. The organization committee was composed of S. C. Antón, K. Gruspier, P. D. Horne, C. F. Merbs, D. J. Ortner, G. D. Richards, B. D. Ragsdale, B. R. Rothschild and P. Stuart Macadam; Eve Cockburn acted as meeting report editor. The venue took place in the halls of the luxurious Toronto Hilton Hotel, the dinner and business meeting were held in the Faculty Club of the University of Toronto.

After greetings from the Mayor of Toronto and reading the letter on the present state of paleopathology sent by S. Jarcho, the first morning was reserved for a workshop on *basic principles* organized by B. D. Ragsdale and D. J. Ortner. It emphasized understanding the soft tissue-bone interfaces resulting in morphological changes. Testing the knowledge of participants with the help of dry bone macerated from examples of clinically known skeletal diseases showed an increasing accuracy for diagnosis by category, but not for specific diseases. The first afternoon was devoted to the *Aidan Cockburn Memorial Symposium*, introduced by D. J. Ortner's remarks on the vivid personality of the founder of the Paleopathology Association A. Cockburn and his conviction that more knowledge on the evolution of diseases could be gained by mummy studies. As an invited lecturer of the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine in Toronto, E. Strouhal outlined the present state of research of malignant tumours in the Old World in antiquity, showing concentration of evidence in regions with ongoing intensive research as Egypt, Europe and Japan. Extremely rare in Paleolithic-Mesolithic, they seem to have increased in medieval times. Other communications concerned Cockburn's contribution to the study of ancient tuberculosis (J. E. Buikstra), a revealing study on the morphology of rheumatoid arthritis by means of surgically resected joint surfaces (B. J. Leisen et al.), past and future applications of new techniques of histology and imaging in paleopathology (P. K. Lewin), undecalcified sections study of the periostitic changes found on the right fibula of the Egyptian mummy PUM II (J. T. Benitez, H. M. Frost) and the study of a facial asymmetry of a 20-year-old female skull from a Meroitic Cemetery at Gebel Adda, Egyptian Nubia, probably killed with an arrowhead penetrating the right gonial angle of the mandible (J. E. Harris). The remaining four papers concentrated on treponemal infections. J. Armelagos defended his and Baker's 1988 thesis on the New World origin of treponematoses and denied skeletal evidence for it from the Old World before 1492. M. L. Powell argued that the original New World treponematoses was essentially non-venereal (comprising the few cases of rarely occurring congenital treponematoses) and should not be called syphilis (implying sexual transmission). On the other hand, A. Stirland presented a case of crural periostitis and two other cases with serpiginous cavitations on skulls from the cemetery of St. Margaret in Combusto in Norwich, England, dated prior to 1468 A.D., as evidence for pre-Columbian venereal syphilis in Europe. Other cases were recently found in England and France; however, the distinction of venereal and non-venereal form was not yet possible. A hope for a possibility to discern syphilitic changes by microscopy of unstained ground sections in polarized light according to the morphology of collagenous fibres (new lamellae arranged like folded pillow) was expressed by M. Schultz.

The second morning was divided into two parallel workshops — symposia. The first one, organized by B. M. Rothschild and C. F. Merbs, concerned *osteoarthritis and calcium phosphate*

deposition disease, which were dealt with from the pathologist's, radiologist's, anthropologist's and clinical perspectives. The other topics concerned the establishment of consistent criteria for diagnosis, correlation of imaging with visual changes and an approach to quantification.

The second workshop — symposium organized by S. C. Antón and G. D. Richards was devoted to *congenital conditions*, illustrated by 40 examples from the Hearst Museum of Anthropology, U. C. Berkeley, and the Atkinson Collection, Univ. of the Pacific, San Francisco. General classification, recognition, variation and implications of different findings for clinical practice were discussed.

The remaining time of the morning was filled up by the presentation of *posters*. They featured osteoporosis and its relationship to fractures, dysraphic and arthritic lesions in the Nazlet Khater man, inflammatory changes of the middle ear and mastoid process with its sequelae, cases of 5th–6th cent. leprosy in France, porous bone lesions in the face associated with cribra orbitalia, cranial trauma revealing possible prehistoric execution, findings of soft tissue calcification (around the kidneys and of a hydatid cyst), a new case of early 5th cent. syphilis from England, paleopathology of Tutu, St. Thomas, US Virgin Island, degenerative joint disease of hands and feet, osteoarthritis and DISH in a Meroitic Nubian male and two cases of carcinoma in individuals with long standing treponematoses. Among "varia" we may range findings of a cotton ball inside the annal canal of a 16th century Colombian mummy, description of frontal scale grooves impressed by pulsation of the superficial temporal artery, and the St. Mary, Maryland lead coffin project.

The last afternoon was reserved for *contributed papers* which were, due to their great number, divided into 2 parallel sessions. The first one, devoted to the *New World*, offered a review of the paleopathological activity of the National Museum of Health and Medicine, Washington (A. W. Willcox et al.), procedure for inventory of skeletal material subjected to repatriation (L. Donat, A. Tiné), skeletal evidence for vampirism in an old male with periostitic ribs suggesting pulmonary tuberculosis (P. S. Sledzik, A. W. Willcox), a case of cleft palate in an Anasazi burial from Colorado (E. Miller, Ch. F. Merbs), analysis of correspondence of osteoarthritis and muscle use in reconstructing activity patterns (B. Nagy, D. Hawkey), questions related to unusual dental wear (L. E. Pappanastos), testing the hypothesis of health state deterioration as a factor contributing together with overpopulation to the decline of the Maya civilization around 900 A.D. with negative results (L. E. Wright), bioanthropological findings in mummies from Arica, Chile (A. C. Aufderheide) and preservation of their organs (M. Zlonis), health and diet of two prehistoric populations from Chile (M. A. Rosado) and increased cranial thickness correlated with neurodegenerative changes studied on Guam (G. Heathcote).

Papers concerning the *Old World* comprised the discussion on the impossibility to establish the occupation on the basis of individual pattern of osteoarthritis (T. Waldron), a list of paleopathological findings of the proto-Neolithic population from the Shanidar cave (A. Agelarakis), a comparative analysis of cortical bone growth in subadults of an early Neolithic site and of a Chalcolithic site in central western Iran (B. Waddell), potentials and limitations of paleopathological study of cremated bones from a Late Bronze Age and an Early Iron Age sites at Kavousi, Crete (M. A. Liston), analysis of eight trepanations from the Bronze Age cemetery at Mokrin (E. A. Rega), the finding of greater prevalence of anaemia in ancient Egypt than in the Indus valley (N. C. Lovell), the presentation of two so far earliest documented cases of Pott's disease from the Predynastic site Adaima, Egypt, in association with curiously distorted pottery (E. Crubézy, T. Janin), high prevalence of changes suggestive of tuberculosis or mycosis in the Northern cemetery at Abydos (B. B. Baker, J. E. Richards), differential diagnosis between Schmorl's nodes

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. Prokopec.

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