

**XIVth Congress of the International Primatological Society. Strasbourg, August 16 — 21, 1992.**

The XIVth Congress of the International Primatological Society was held in the Palais des Congres in Strasbourg, France (Jean-Jacques Petter — President, Nicola Herrenschmidt — General Secretary, Annie Arsene — Congress Secretary). It had been the largest IPS Congress that was ever organized. More than 1200 participants presented about 600 papers and almost 200 posters. The scientific program consisted of 16 paper sessions, 30 symposia and 3 workshops. Very interesting video sessions were organised every evening while the discussions in poster sessions usually occurred during coffee breaks. There were traditional primatological topics like primate behaviour, ecology, conservation, breeding and medical primatology. Many fields of experimental and applied primatology have been covered by specialised symposia, e.g. virology, genetics, neurobiology, physiology, primate psychology and communication. Some Paper Sessions and Symposia were of special interest for physical anthropologists. The Paper Session "Anatomy" had three parts: Part I: General Anatomy, Part II: Functional Anatomy and Locomotion, and Part III: Paleontology and Phylogeny (Monday and Tuesday Sessions). The symposium "Forces and Stresses as Factors which Influence Adaptation and Morphology in Primates" (organised by R. Crompton and H. Preuschoft — Wednesday) dealt with most various problems of primate biomechanics. Two symposia on paleoprimatology were on Friday; "Recent Discoveries of Fossil Nonhuman Hominoids" organised by Brigitte Senut and "Paleogene Primate Evolution" organised by Mark Godinot. "Recent Discoveries of Fossil Nonhuman Hominoids" had a superb organisation by Brigitte Senut and Martin Pickford. It gave much new information on Oligocene and Miocene hominoids and, furthermore, most of the original fossils (most of them unpublished) were available during the Symposium. Especially information on 34 m.y. old early Oligocene genus *Moeripithecus* from Oman and a complete information on fossil hominoids from China was extraordinarily valuable. Perhaps recent hominoid fossil finds will help us to learn more on the evolution of hominoid primates in Oligocene and Miocene. New postcranial remains show many ancestral features in comparison with recent anthropoid primates showing their non-specialised quadrupedal locomotion.

The European Federation of Primatologists has been established during the IPS Congress (August 19 & 20, 1992, Bertrand L. Deputte — President). EFP should be a European coordinating body for all activities related to primatology including coordination of funding of research by EC grants and fellowships and organising meetings and workshops on European level. Marina A. Vančatová has become representative to EFP for the Czech Republic and Eastern Europe.

IPS Congress was a really successful scientific meeting. There were absolutely no organising problems and the quality and scope of sessions had been really amazing. Perfect abstract proceedings will give us valuable information for several future years. Selected papers will be published in reviewed proceedings. I would like to congratulate all the organizers.

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and Václav Vančata*

IX European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association.

This convention was organized in Barcelona by R. Batista, director of the Archaeological Museum, and D. Campillo, professor of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, from September 1–4, 1992. Several leading Spanish anthropologists, archaeologists and medical doctors became members of the organizing committee. Members of the scientific committee from abroad were P. Bennike, E. Cockburn, E. Rabino Massa, M. Schultz and R. T. Steinbock.

Contrary to previous meetings, in which communications were more or less arranged thematically, in this meeting, most probably for reasons concerning simultaneous translations, they were arranged according to the language in which they were delivered. Thus there were four sections in Catalan, Spanish (Castilian), French and English.

Of the about 50 papers delivered to about 100 participants in the meeting most were casuistics, mostly concerning traumatism including trephination (6 papers), congenital diseases including nanism and achondroplasia (4), degenerative-productive changes as osteophytosis of the spine and arthropathies (4) and specific inflammatory diseases (4), of which most interesting was a late antique case believed to be congenital syphilis from France and first evidence for a fungal osteomyelitis of the spine from the Sudan. Less frequent were papers on tumours, osteoporosis, enamel hypoplasia, dental pathology and some other findings. In contrast to it, only five papers were devoted to population paleopathology, studied in an Italian and a Spanish bronze age sample, two samples of Precolumbian American Indians and one sample of Precontact Hawaiians. Mummy studies concerned one Egyptian child mummy and the famous "Ice Man" recently found in the Alps. Two papers showed the scope and limits of paleopathology of cremated bones, and their histological analysis was presented in another one. Future direction possibilities also for paleopathology was outlined in four contributions concerning DNA studies.

Topics bordering paleopathology consisted of collections of pathological bones with known diagnoses as expedients for paleopathologists, study of sexing features, computer tomographic study of ageing features, blood group determination, taphonomic changes, question of non-specific stress in paleopathology, comparison between palaeopathological and archaeological results and therapeutic use of sacred serpents.

The program was complemented by workshops, one concerning creation of a unified system of paleopathological methodology, another question of the origin of malaria, and the most interesting one demonstrating diagnostic possibilities of the microscopic investigation of bone tumours.

The meeting was excellently organized and complemented by an exhibition of Catalan paleopathological findings, a city tour of Barcelona, working lunches and a congress association dinner. For interested participants, a post-congress tour to the Greek city of Empuries was offered.

Eugen Strouhal