
K. Valoch

WORKSHOP ON TRAUMATOLOGY IN MUNICH 1995

The working group on Paleanthropology and Prehistoric Anthro- pology of the German Anthropological Society, under the leadership of Professor Maria Teschler-Nicola, organized its 3rd interna- tional workshop, this on traumatology in osteological materials. It took place at the Institute for Anthropology and Human Genetics of the University of Munich, whose director, Professor Gisela Grupe, was a perfect host.

The introductory series of lectures dealt with modern clinical and forensic aspects of traumatic lesions and with the new spiral-CT method used in their evaluation. Further group of papers was devoted- to the palaeopathology of fractures of pyramids, the mandible, the teeth and jaws, the nasal region and the whole facial skeleton. One case was presented as evidence for neuropathic arthropathy. Popu- lational studies showed contrasting patterns of traumatic lesions in two successive Nubian populations; a repertoire of cranial trauma from the time of the Battle of Nations near Leipzig; a high frequency of mostly unhealed trauma in a Neolithic population group from Lower Austria as evidence of an early massacre; the occurrence of rib fractures in a Bajuwarian row cemetery; perimortal cranial traumatisms in Panalaeolithic Europe; an incidence of cranial vault trauma- tism in a medieval population from Italy; and the battle at Dornach in 1499 as viewed by palaeopathologists. A case of serial trauma from the end of the Neolithic period, an analysis of trephination as an indicator of traumatism of the cranial vault, and differential diag- nostic questions on amputations complemented the scientific pro- gramme. A film on „Trephination of the Kisi“ in East Africa, di- rected by Rolf Messig, from an expedition by the Institute for the History of Medicine in Düsseldorf, was projected.

At the closing meeting, the authors commented in their posters on the identification of Johann Libera, traumatic lesions of a his- torical skull from Berlin, contributions to trephination techniques, the aging and sexing of osteological finds, traumatic lesions on a series from different localities and dates from Germany and Austria, and the skull of Colonel Kalileng, shot dead in Brno in 1645. - Eugen Strouhal


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Abusir

Together with Mgr. Viktor Černý, we processed human skeletal re- mains found in a few recent seasons during excavations by the Czech Institute of Egyptology at Abusir, South Field, in 8 mastabas dating from the 5th–6th Dynasty. These were mostly in a poor state of pres- ervation, but taphonomic, demographic and paleopathological obser- vations could be performed. Of the total of 43 individuals, 40 were adults (26 males, 13 females, 1 of undetermined sex), the remaining 3 children.

A mummy found in autumn 1994 in the Pyramid Lepsia no. 24, located southeast of the Pyramid Temple of Raneferef, proved to belong to a 21–25-year-old female. Her body was well-embalmed by copious use of resin, and her brain was removed. These features gave evidence against the dating of the mummy to the 5th Dynasty. Further, an almost complete skeleton of a perinatal child from the 5th Dynasty Mastaba of Hdetjeuneb was examined. It originated from a secondary burial in a wooden coffin, which was buried in the northern offering chamber 1 m under the top of its eastern wall.

Tomb of Maya and Meryt at Saqqara

Anthropological material from the remaining shafts of the tomb, not yet explored during previous seasons, was processed. In all of them were found human skeletal remains scattered, fragmented and par- tially destroyed, lacking the natural anatomical position, so that they could be studied only by the anatomical method (separately by sin- gle bones), complemented by a calculation procedure introduced in previous seasons. Only in a few cases, due either to the characteristic colour of the bones or their identical age (as was the case with immature remains), some individuals could be reconstructed.

Shaft III yielded a minimum number of 9 adults (5 males, 4 fe- males) and one 14–16-year-old juvenile.

In Shaft IV only 4 individuals were identified, 2 males (20–30 years old), one adult female (20–60 years old) and a child (6–10 years old).

Shaft VII was a collective burial place for a minimum number of 27 fragmented adults (15 males, 12 females), to which another 4 reconstructed individuals could be added. These were a 18–19-year- old juvenile (probably female), a 50–60-year-old female, 12–14- year-old child and an infant who died in its first year.

A further three burials of individuals found in situ were exam- ined. One of them, a 23–27-year-old male, originated in Room E, belonging to the upper level of Shaft I. The other two, labelled Bur- ial 11, were found in the Outer Courtyard of the tomb in March 1995, while excavating a pit in the three decorated lower ba- chanal chambers from the lower level of the tomb, adjoining Shaft Ib. These were a 35–40-year-old female buried together her 4–6-month- old infant.

Concerning dating, burials in Shafts III and IV were of late New Kingdom date, in Shafts VII the upper level of Shaft I of Late Period date, and Burial 11 of mid-Dynasty 8 date, according to the pottery found together with the bones.

In all the reconstructed or discovered individuals, the usual de- mographic, anthroposcopic, anthropometric and paleopathologic programme was performed (Strouhal and Perizounis 1992).

Oasis Dakhla

At the invitation of the Canadian Archaeological Mission in Be- shendi, I examined three cases suspected to be malign tumours, found in the cemeteries of Ain Tirisgi and Kellis and dated to the 3rd Inter- mediary Period. In two of them, the diagnosis of metastatic appears most probable, while the third case is still under investigation. - Eugen Strouhal

WINKLER’S MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM – PERSPECTIVES IN THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF PAST AND PRESENT POPULA- TIONS.

29 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER 1995. XANTHI, GREECE

This international symposium was held in Xanthi from 29 Septem- ber to 5 October, in conjunction with the new Demokritos Universi- ty. The university is located in the region of Thrace and was built with support from the European Union. Although this is a new academ- ical institution, the international meeting followed up on ten pre- vious anthropological symposia organized by the Anthropological Museum of the city of Xanthi, the first of which took place in 1981. The chief organizer of this successful symposium was the director of the Anthropology Laboratory of Demokritos University in Ko- motini, Prof. Nikolaos Xirotiris, with the support of the Demokritos International Foundation and the participation of the Xanthi city government.

83 anthropologists, geneticists, human biologists, archaeologists and paleontologists from 22 mostly European countries (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey) took part in the sym- posium, and more than 65 papers were submitted. The EAA was repre- sented by President, Prof. Cezar Sussane. The papers covered a wide range of problems in the sciences of man, both biolog- ically and socially oriented. This was fully in accordance with the unusually broad professional scope of the prematurely deceased Prof.