



BERICHTE * NEWS * NOUVELLES

HANS GRIMM (1910-1995)

On 1 April 1995 the German anthropologist, social and children's physician and university professor Hans Grimm died suddenly at the age of 85.

He was born in Zwickau in Saxony on 7 February 1910. He studied medicine at the University of Halle, and when the professor of zoology there, A. Remane, transferred to Kiel, he followed him and gained a doctorate in natural sciences there in 1939. He won an assistant's post in the anthropological institute in Wrocław under Prof. Eickstedt, and concluded his studies of medicine there in 1943. The end of the war found Grimm in the hospital for infectious illnesses in Poděbrady.

In 1946-47 he was accepted as an assistant at the children's clinic in Halle, where he had once studied. In 1951 he took a further degree in the field of social medicine with a thesis on struma in children.

At that time he could devote himself to anthropology only in his free time. He examined human skeletal remains in museums in Halle, Magdeburg and Weimar. When Humboldt University reopened in Berlin he was entrusted with lectures on phylogenetic evolution and, later, constitutional biology there. He finally settled in Berlin when he assumed the function of director of the Department of Social Hygiene of the Academy for Physician's Further Education. At the same time he worked as a school physician. In 1952 he became one of the founders of what was at first a professional association and later a society of sports medicine, and in 1955 contributed substantially to the writing of the first German textbook on medicine in physical education. His pedagogical activity gradually expanded to cover lectures and practical exercises in anthropology. He conceived the idea of founding an independent anthropological institute, which came into being in 1955 as part of the Faculty of Medicine at Humboldt University.

This was the first institute of anthropology in postwar East Germany, the former institute having been discredited by its racist theories under the Nazi government. With his physician's humanism, broad education in the natural sciences and patient pedagogical work, Grimm demonstrated the practical as well as theoretical utility of anthropology. He developed the institute into a scientific center whose importance soon went beyond the boundaries of the former DDR. In 1958 Grimm published a manual of anthropology for pedagogical use entitled "Fundamentals of Constitutional Biology and Anthropology". In 1959 he became co-publisher and chief editor of the periodical *Zeitschrift für ärztliche Jugendkunde*, dedicated to the anthropology and medicine of children's health, which he guided up until 1987.

His work was, unfortunately, marked by a political situation in which neither he nor his assistants were permitted the contact with foreign (Western) countries so essential for normal scientific work. When the association for anthropology, ethnology and prehistory in West Berlin awarded him the Virchow Medal for his outstanding merit in the revival and development of German anthropology, he was not allowed to accept it.

The university reforms of 1972 signified the abolition of institutes, as the result of a new conception of broad fields of study (Beiriche). At that time the focus of Grimm's research, hitherto oriented primarily toward the living young, gradually shifted to the study of skeletal findings from archaeological discoveries. Given his physician's erudition, it was not surprising that anthropological perspectives were ever more often complemented here by paleopathology, which began to develop rapidly throughout the world beginning in the Seventies. Grimm's work on different diagnostic groups of findings gained the recognition of experts. Even after his retirement he published a special monograph on the Neolithic stone mound culture (Hunengraber) in the Mecklenburg region.

He continued his work in retirement after the reunification of Germany. Only three weeks before his death he sent the author of this obituary a letter in which he discussed the future of anthropology at Humboldt University, which still concerned him even as an eighty-five-year-old man...

With him has departed a scientist, a good man and an unyielding advocate of humanism, who rejected both dictatorships, the brown and the red, under whose reign he spent most of his active life. Despite all the obstacles which came into his way as a consequence of this, he was able to resurrect a discredited field of study, develop it further and demonstrate its significance in practice and for the future. This great Humanist, anthropologist and bearer of the Hrdlička Medal will live on, not only in his students and successors, but in our memories as well.

Prof. MUDr. PhDr. Evžen Štrouhal, DrSc.

CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL DE PALEONTOLOGIA HUMANA, ORCE 4.-7. 9. 1995

Ein internationaler Kongress mit etwa 200 Teilnehmern aus 18 Ländern fand im südspanischen Städtchen Orce (etwa 150 km NO von Granada) deswegen statt, da man in dortigen plio/pleistozänen Ablagerungen neben zahlreichen Faunaresten auch vermutliche Hominidenreste und Steinartefakte geborgen hatte. Die dortigen Forschungen werden vom paläontologischen Institut der Universität in Sabadell (Barcelona) unternommen und von Prof. Josep Gibert i Clois geleitet. Gegenwärtig werden vier Fundstellen untersucht; an drei davon Fuentenueva 3, Barranca León und Barranca del Paso) fand man Steinartefakte zusammen mit Tierknochen in ursprünglicher Lage, von der vierten (Venta Micena), einer seit längerem bekannten Lokalität altpleistozäner Fauna, stammen die vermeintlichen Hominidenreste sowie Spuren menschlicher Aktivität an Tierknochen. Die als Hominidenreste präsentierten Knochen bestehen aus einem occipito-parietalen Schädelfragment und einem Humerusfragment mit einer Epiphyse, beides juvenilen Alters, sowie einem unbestimmbaren Diaphysenfragment. Im Gegensatz dazu bestehen über den artefiziellen Charakter der Steinobjekte keine Zweifel. Es handelt sich um kleine unretuschierte Abschlüge und dazugehörige Kerne, an bearbeiteten Geräten gibt es nur einige ausgesplitterte Stücke (pièces écaillées) in typischer Ausprägung. Geröllgeräte kommen nur vereinzelt vor. Die Anwesenheit von Menschen -tool-makers- ist also gesichert.

Die plio/pleistozänen lakustrinen und fluvialen Sedimente erreichen eine Mächtigkeit bis 80 m und sind in einer Ausdehnung von etlichen Tausend km² erhalten. Tiefe Erosionsschluchten ermöglichen das Studium der Stratigraphie. Nach paläomagnetischen Messungen sind die basalen Ablagerungen etwa 5,3 Mio Jahre alt, die gegrabenen Fundstellen stammen höchstwahrscheinlich aus dem Zeitraum zwischen 1,6-1,2 mio Jahre. Das dortige Gelände bietet fast unbeschränkte Forschungsmöglichkeiten und verbirgt gewiß noch manche Überraschung.

Die Tagung wurde durch einen Vortrag von Ph. Tobias eröffnet, in dem das Sprachvermögen der europäischen alt- und mittelpleistozänen Hominiden wahrscheinlich gemacht wurde. Ein wesentlicher Teil der folgenden Vorträge wurde der Präsentation der Funde von Orce gewidmet. (u. a. mikrobiologische und chemische Beweise des hominiden Ursprungs der Funde von Venta Micena). Ferner wurden die Hominiden von Atapuerca sowie die Neandertaler-Reste von Las Palomas und Cueva Negra behandelt. Vorträge über die Stratigraphie und über paläontologische Funde begleiteten die jeweiligen Ausführungen. Außerhalb von Spanien verdient die Aufmerksamkeit der Fund einer menschlichen Kalotte von „Campo Grande“ bei Ceprano in Mittelitalien zusammen mit Acheuléen-Artefakten, die vermutlich älter als 700 000 Jahre sein könnte. Die Aus-

breitung des *H. erectus* in SO-Asien behandelten drei Vorträge, präsentiert wurde der Unterkiefer von Dmanisi. Es wurde über afrikanische Industrien aus dem Bereich Plio/Pleistozän, über jene von Ubeidiya und über eine neue altpaläolithische Fundstelle in Mittelitalien (Quarto delle Cintonare in Agro Pontio) berichtet. - Exkursionen besuchten die Grabungen und geologische Aufschlüsse in der Umgebung von Orce, sowie die Höhlen Las Palomas und Victoria. Eine gute Organisation und angenehmes Milieu trugen zum erfolgreichen Verlauf dieses aufschlussreichen Kongresses bei.

K. Valoch

WORKSHOP ON TRAUMATOLOGY IN MUNICH 1995

The working group on Paleoanthropology and Prehistoric Anthropology of the German Anthropological Society, under the leadership of Professor Maria Teschler-Nicola, organized its 3rd international 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 epidemiology 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. Population studies showed contrasting patterns of traumatic lesions in two successive Nubian populations; a repertoire of cranial traumata from the time of the Battle of Nations near Leipzig; a great frequency of mostly unhealed traumata in a Neolithic population group from Lower Austria as evidence of an early massacre; the occurrence of rib fractures in a Bajuvarian row cemetery; perimortal cranial traumatism in Palaeolithic Europe; an incidence of cranial vault traumatism in a medieval population from Italy; and the battle at Dornach in 1499 as viewed by palaeopathologists. A case of serial traumata from the end of the Neolithic period, an analysis of trephination as an indicator of traumatism of the cranial vault, and differential diagnostic questions on amputations complemented the scientific programme. A film on „Trephination of the Kisii“ in East Africa, directed 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 Liberda, traumatic lesions of a historical 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 Kallenberg, shot dead in Brno in 1645.

Eugen Strouhal

REPORT ON ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND PALEOPATHOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT, 1995.

INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE,
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Abusir

Together with Mgr. Viktor Černý, we processed human skeletal remains 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 preservation, but taphonomic, demographic and paleopathologic observations 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 Lepsius 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 Hedjetnebu 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 partially destroyed, lacking the natural anatomical position, so that they could be studied only by the anatomical method (separately by single 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 females) 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 VIII 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 examined. 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 Burial 11, were found in the Outer Courtyard of the tomb in March 1994, while excavating a pit for rebuilding the three decorated burial 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 VIII and the upper level of Shaft I of Late Period date, and Burial 11 of mid-18th Dynasty date, according to the pottery found together with the bones.

In all the reconstructed or discovered individuals, the usual demographic, anthroposcopic, anthropometric and paleopathologic programme was performed (Strouhal and Perizonius 1992).

Oasis Dakhla

At the invitation of the Canadian Archaeological Mission in Beshendi, I examined three cases suspected to be malign tumours, found in the cemeteries of Ain Tirghi and Kellis and dated to the 3rd Intermediary 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 POPULATIONS.

29 SEPTEMBER - 5 OCTOBER 1995, XANTHI, GREECE

This international symposium was held in Xanthi from 29 September to 5 October, in conjunction with the new Demokritos University. The university is located in the region of Thrace and was built with support from the European Union. Although this is a new academic institution, the international meeting followed up on ten previous 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 Komotini, Prof. Nikolaus Xirotis, 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 3, Austria 2, Belgium 11, Bulgaria 15, the Czech Republic 10, Denmark 2, France 2, Germany 6, Greece 3, Hungary 15, Italy 2, Israel 2, Lithuania 1, the Netherlands 2, Poland 5, Romania 3, Serbia 1, Slovakia 2, Spain 3, Switzerland 3, Turkey 2) took part in the symposium, and more than 65 papers were submitted. The EAA was represented by its president, Prof. Charles Sussane. The papers covered a wide range of problems in the sciences of man, both biologically and socially oriented. This was fully in accordance with the unusually broad professional scope of the prematurely deceased Prof.